

FRIDAY JANUARY 12 1990

LAST MONTH'S AVERAGE DAILY SALE 446,000 No 63,601

Pay demands threaten jobs says Thatcher

UK wages rising faster than competitors'

By Robin Oakley, Tim Jones, Kevin Eason and Richard Ford

The Prime Minister yesterday issued a stark warning that workers were pricing themselves out of jobs, as the Government sought to head off a succession of double-figure pay claims in the wake of the 10.2 per cent offer by Ford.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs that it was very disturbing that while wage costs in Britain had risen 6 per cent in the third quarter, those in the US had risen only 2 per cent and those in West Germany by only 1 per cent. Meanwhile, wage costs had decreased by 1 per cent in Japan, 3 per cent in France and 4 per cent in the Netherlands.

The Prime Minister declared: "If our wage costs rise faster than those of our competitors, our competitors will get the orders and the jobs. The movement of wage costs is very disturbing."

INSIDE

Powerboat swoop by Vickers

Control of Italy's Riva, powerboat-maker to the famous from the Aga Khan to Joan Collins, has been bought for £3.1 million by Vickers, owner of Rolls-Royce Motors.

Vickers, the marine engineering, armoured vehicles and aerospace manufacturer, is keen to replicate its success with Rolls-Royce by setting a profitable share of the growing luxury boat market.

Riva, a family company for nearly a century and a half, claims to be Europe's premier manufacturer of luxury powerboats. Many highly streamlined in fibreglass but also made of traditional mahogany.

Peking arrests

At least two people were detained by watchful Chinese police for "disrupting the peace" in Tiananmen Square, marking the full opening of martial law.

Listeria alert

Fears about the growing threat of food poisoning have led the Commons social services committee to call on the Government to make listeria a notifiable disease.

Accountancy examinations

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' exam results will be published in tomorrow's Times. Copies of the paper will be available from 10pm tonight at Victoria and King's Cross stations, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus.

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Soviet leader takes his case to the people



Street debate: A forceful President Gorbachov yesterday engaging in exchanges with residents of Vilnius, the capital, about Lithuania's rift with Moscow.

Gorbachov puts his fate in Lithuania's hands

By Nick Worrall in Vilnius and Mary Dejevsky in London

More than 300,000 people — nearly a tenth of Lithuania's population — stood in silent protest in the centre of the capital Vilnius yesterday to impress on President Gorbachov their demand for the republic to become independent from Moscow.

Mr Gorbachov, who arrived in Lithuania yesterday, told them: "We have said all there is to be said. Mikhail Gorbachov cannot say he does not understand."

Mr Jostas-Vincas Paleckis, the local Communist Party ideology chief, said that for centuries Lithuania was a toy in other people's hands. "Now we can say it has ceased being a toy and decides its own fate. No one can stop our march to independence."

After the speeches, Mr Landsbergis declared 15 minutes' silence. "Let us be silent until we hear the bells of the cathedral toll," he said. "Let us be silent with one thought and one wish. We are a free people. We will create a free Lithuania." When the cathedral bells rang out, the choir of the Lithuanian academy of sciences sang the national anthem, "Lithuania land of heroes".

Mr Gorbachov, who arrived yesterday, said he was pleased to see the people of Lithuania. "I am the one who chose it. My personal fate is linked to this choice," he said. "Whole families, many with children held up as symbols of the republic's future, crowded into the main square in central Vilnius."

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Eurotunnel crisis averted

By Our City Staff

The threat to the Channel tunnel has evaporated after leaders of the 208 banks backing the project agreed to lend Eurotunnel up to £400 million so that work can continue beyond the end of the month.

Defiant 999 crews go on indefinite strike

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Ambulance union leaders were last night fighting to maintain the discipline of their 18-week dispute as crews in some West Sussex stations walked out on indefinite strike and more Army ambulances were called in to help the hand-pressed police.

Romania feels the cold since Ceausescu's death

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The three-week-old anti-communist revolution has affected every aspect of life in Romania, even down to the daily weather forecasts which were falsified under Ceausescu to dupe the population and foreign tourists.

Mr Mihai Barbolescu, a senior official at the National Meteorological Institute in Bucharest, spoke yesterday of how Romanian weather forecasters were given instructions from the Prime Minister's office never to let temperatures drop below minus 15C.

He said the order had been received in a telephone call from Mr Constantine Dascalu, the former Prime Minister, during the hard winter of 1985-1986.

UK base to be US intelligence centre

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

RAF Molesworth, the former cruise missile site in Cambridgeshire, is to be converted into an American wartime emergency headquarters and a special centre for US intelligence analysis, it was announced yesterday.

How healthy are you?

THE TIMES GUIDE TO HEALTHY LIVING

How healthy is the way you live? On Monday The Times begins an important five-part series to point you towards a healthier lifestyle.

A question of health: the series begins with a quiz by Dr Thomas Stuttaford to help you assess the risks you face.

Find out how you score in The Times on Monday. The series will also look at:

- How your work affects your health. Can you do anything about it? And can you learn to thrive on stress?
- Is good health a case of mind over matter — or is exercise more important than attitude?
- Are some parts of Britain healthier than others? And can you improve your environment?
- How important is sex and a happy relationship to your health?
- Put yourself on the right path in the 1990s with The Times Guide to Healthy Living all next week.

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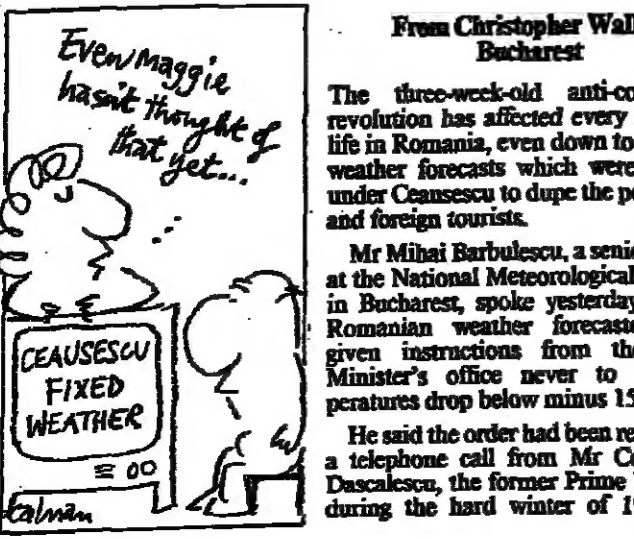
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NEWS ROUNDUP

Crew of 19 saved from sinking ship

Nineteen seamen were rescued yesterday after they abandoned their stricken freighter in a gale in the north Atlantic (David Sapsed writes).

They were picked up by the tanker B T Nestor after boarding two lifeboats from their stricken vessel, the 7,000-tonne Irving, which was reported to be taking water and listing in 40-knot winds 800 miles west of Land's End.

A mayday message received by Falmouth Coastguard began an international rescue operation. A search-and-rescue Nimrod from RAF Kinloss, a US Navy aircraft from the Azores and two ships, including the 70,000-tonne Nestor, made for the scene. One member of the freighter's crew was injured.

The Bermudan-registered freighter, owned by Kent Lines, was sailing from Canada to Rouen, in France, with a cargo of wood pulp and newsprint. Several containers were lost overboard when the ship encountered problems yesterday afternoon.

Gallery attack remand

A man accused of slashing a painting at the National gallery on Wednesday appeared at Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday and was remanded in custody until February 1. Martin Paul Came, of Exeter, aged 27 and unemployed, is charged with criminal damage to "La Madonna Del Gatto" by the Italian master Federico Barocci. Usually known as "The Virgin with a cat", the work, painted before 1577, can be restored, despite at least eight Stanley-knife slashes.

Bomb man is jailed

A man from Northern Ireland who admitted having mortar bomb parts in his garage near the border was jailed for five years yesterday by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin. Timothy Megarry, aged 25, admitted having ammunition and bomb parts near Letterkenny in Co Donegal on March 18, 1983. Mr Patrick McEneaney, for the defence, said Megarry wanted publicly to dissociate himself from the IRA. He had fled from Belfast in 1971 to avoid the unrest.

Alert for giant eagle

Bird-watchers on the east coast were yesterday hoping for a sighting of a rare white-tailed eagle from Europe. The bird, with a wing span of about eight feet, was first seen on Wednesday flying over the sea off Scott Head, near Bakeney, on the north Norfolk coast. Mr Richard Millington, Bird Information Service spokesman, said it was later seen at Titchwell and off Hunstanton and was last reported heading towards the Lincolnshire coast.

TV station diversifies

The Welsh language fourth television channel, S4C, the most expensive television service per viewer in the world, is to move away from concentrating on the Welsh-speaking rural heartland that prompted its creation (Richard Evans writes). Although Sunday night hymn-singing and a Welsh soap opera top the ratings, only 20 per cent of the population speak Welsh. The channel plans more entertainment and "lifestyle" shows. More programmes will also be sub-titled.

Opt-out ruling sought

The High Court is to be asked for the first time to rule on whether the Government acted reasonably in allowing a school to opt out (David Tyler writes). Avon County Council says Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, acted unreasonably in giving the 864-pupil Beccles Cliff school, Bath, grant-maintained status from April. It says the move wrecked plans to reorganize secondary education.

Warning of Aids spread in spite of drop in cases

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Aids epidemic in Britain appears to have slowed in the last few months, but there is a continuing danger of it spreading into the general population, the Department of Health said yesterday.

Another 51 cases of the disease were reported last month, according to the department's latest figures.

The total of known sufferers is 2,830, of whom 1,612 have died. A further 11,676 people

are known to be infected with HIV, the Aids virus. About five people a day became infected in the final quarter of last year. However, the total of new cases during that period was 181, compared with 277 in the previous quarter.

More than 95 per cent of all reported cases continue to be among men, the great majority of whom are homosexual or bisexual.

Poll tax default may be three times rates loss

By David Walker
Public Administration
Correspondent

Local authority treasurers are privately assuming that they will lose three times more through poll tax defaulters than they lose through rates non-payment.

Many town hall finance officials are working on the basis that they will at best collect between 94 and 95 per cent of what is owed in poll tax, compared with 98 per cent of rates.

Government figures for council support grants, announced yesterday, are the last piece of information needed for councils to work out their 1990-91 budgets. Those will be

based on confidential assumptions about how much poll tax they will actually collect.

The Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils has already made representations to the Home Office urging it to equip magistrates' courts to cope with an expected doubling or tripling in the numbers of cases of failure to pay.

Many treasurers concede that much of their planning for poll tax, due to be introduced in April, is based on guess work. According to Department of Environment figures published last month, the City of Birmingham had registered 94 per cent of its eligible population of poll-

tax payers. But Mr Roger Burton, deputy city treasurer, said yesterday that Whitehall was working on out-of-date figures. Since the announcement, council officials had canvassed a further 17,000 properties seeking details of households, he said.

Mr Burton said: "We have to be prudent and will have to make an allowance for non-collection of community charge, especially as we don't yet know whether the Government's estimate of Birmingham's total population is in fact correct. And we won't know that till after the next Census of Population."

Although the Association of Dis-

trict Councils professed itself broadly satisfied with Whitehall estimates, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities — representing city councils where populations tend to be more mobile and harder to count than in the shire districts — has pointed out anomalies, including reports from the Environment Department of some councils registering more than 100 per cent of their "official" population.

Since the Government announced that poll-tax registration across England and Wales had been 99 per cent successful, some big city councils have received additional information on households from the

Department of Social Security. One council found that up to a third of residents receiving income support had failed to register — even though on the Government's figures its registration was nearly 100 per cent.

The key question for treasurers and councillors over the next few weeks is how much loss of poll tax they build into their budgetary assumptions for 1990-91.

Much will depend on the vigour with which councils chase defaulters. By law, decisions on how far and how fast to seek payment will be taken by the community charge officer, a council official, rather than by councillors.

Patten defies threat from rebels over local grants

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday stood firm in the face of a threatened backbench Conservative revolt and announced largely unchanged figures for the community charge or poll tax, which comes into effect in April.

Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs: "I have decided to confirm in the main the proposals which I described in my statement on November 6 and put forward in the consultation paper."

Total central government support for local authority spending remained at £23.1 billion for next year, an increase of 8.5 per cent, and the overall spending target for more than 400 councils in England stayed at £32.8 billion.

But minor changes in the calculations of revenue support grant to individual councils, triggered by updated population figures and a revised formula for snow clearance costs, will mean changes of a few pounds to the earlier poll tax projections. The average forecast figure remains at £278.

Local authorities will also benefit to the tune of £180 million by the Government's decision to boost their cash flow by making available £2.373 million, one quarter of the grant, in April and May, when they would be still waiting for charge-payers to meet their bills.

The formula used for calculating the final figures on which councils will base their budgets for 1990-91 and their poll tax bills has been the subject of protests by many Tory MPs, who maintain that the £1.3 billion of concessions over the next four years do not go far enough.

Mr Patten's announcement gave no more ground. Last night the possibility of a last-ditch appeal to the Prime Minister before next Thursday's Commons votes on orders implementing the

grants was considered and rejected by senior Tory MPs. They felt that it was too late for the Government to change its plans.

Labour said it was clear that there was no new money to ease the pain of the poll tax and dismissed the latest figures as a "total mirage".

Mr David Blunkett, Labour spokesman on local government, said that the average charge would be at least £343 next year — not the Government's £278 — and attacked Mr Patten for not having "the guts" to make an oral statement to the Commons.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, the former environment minister, who has led the backbench Tory protests, issued a warning that the latest formula was damaging for the country, suicidal for many Tory constituencies and a cynical ploy for the Conservative Party at large.

The Prime Minister led a ministerial counter-offensive against critics of the community charge and the uniform business rate, which will mean big increases for shops and factories in the South of England but gains for those in the North.

Mrs Thatcher said that the total amount raised by the business rate next year would be the same as this year plus inflation. "There will be no real increase."

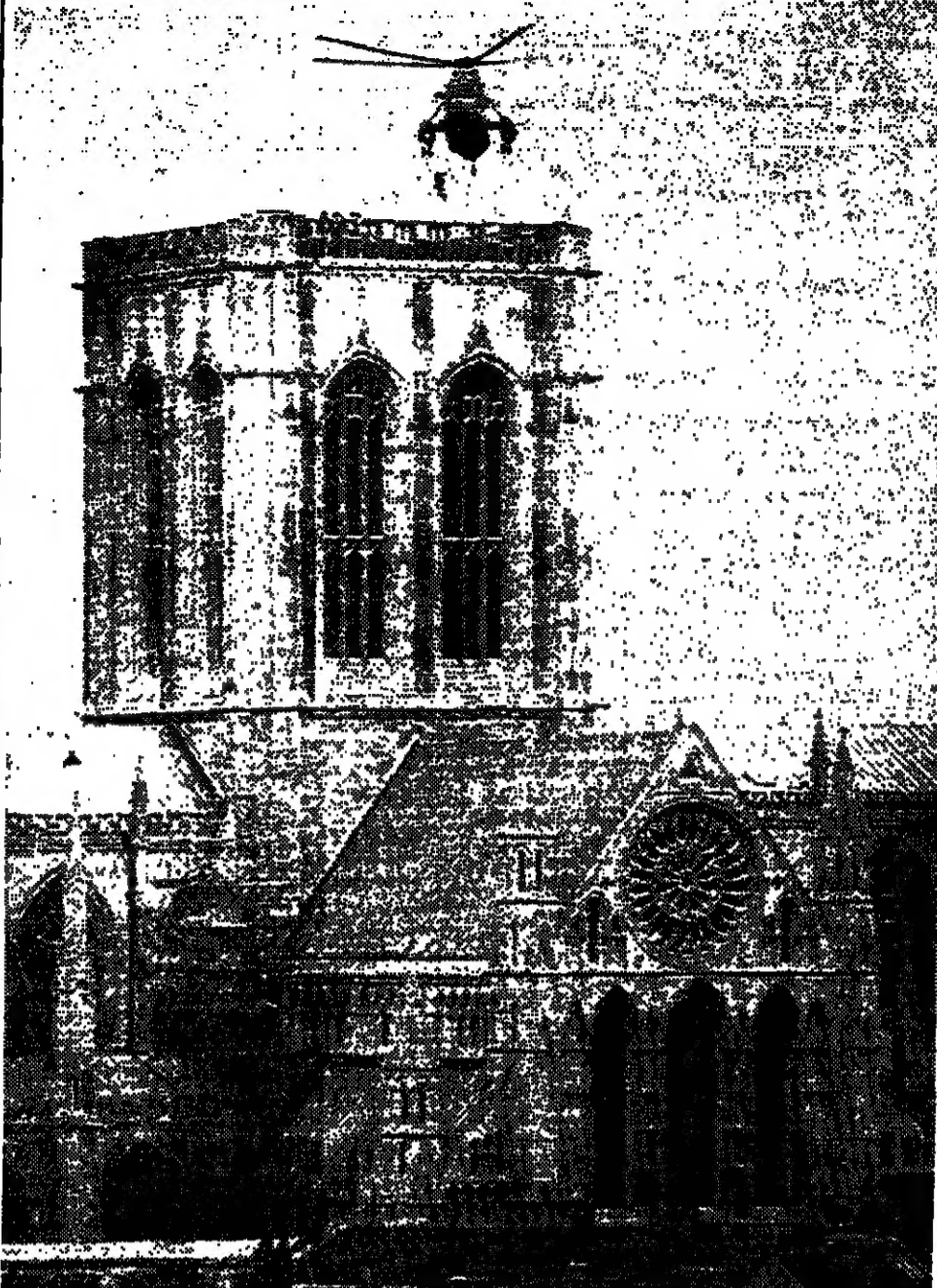
The increases would be applied over at least five years and no firm would have to pay more than 20 per cent extra in real terms in any one year.

"It will be the first time that businesses have had an assurance about rates," she said.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, sought to stiffen the resolve of potential Tory waverers by warning them against falling for "scare stories" from council treasurers seeking taxpayer's money to cover their chronic over-spending.

Leading article, page 15

Lift-off time at Minster



An RAF Sea King helicopter winches Warrant Officer Steve Lyach from the central tower of York Minster in a simulated rescue. The exercise was prompted by an emergency in August when a woman had a fatal heart attack after climbing to the top of Durham Cathedral tower.

Appeal for pub bombs trial notes

By Stewart Tisdall
Crime Correspondent

Detectives investigating allegations against Surrey officers in the Guildford four case have appealed to defence lawyers for notes of the trial 15 years ago because no transcript or shorthand record exists.

Official notes of the case were destroyed in 1982. The police appeal for help was sent out several weeks ago by the investigating team from Avon and Somerset police who are examining allegations of fabrication, concoction and suppression involving four Surrey officers, one retired.

The three serving officers were suspended from duties last October after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of the three men and one woman convicted for the 1974 IRA bomb attack on two Guildford public houses.

Last May, according to a Crown statement in the Court of Appeal, the Avon and Somerset officers found Surrey police papers which raised questions about interviews with two of the defendants.

The absence of the transcript or official notes of the proceedings held at the Central Criminal Court in 1975 could be an embarrassment, raising questions about the progress of the investigation and the time it is taking.

There is legal speculation about the results of the investigation in the absence of a transcript. If the suspended officers are charged after a long delay magistrates or judges could decide that the defendants have been unfairly treated because of the time lag.

Ford offers 20% skills incentive

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Ford is prepared to double its 10.2 per cent wage offer as an incentive for workers to become some of the most skilled assembly line staff in Britain. The disclosure could further enrage ministers calling for wage restraint in the new year pay round.

However, documents circulated among the company's 32,000-strong hourly-paid workforce, justified the offer claiming that it would go hand-in-hand

with radical productivity improvements. Extra allowances would be available for workers who want to join an elite team maintaining the robots which operate in the company's most automated plants. They would have to pass electronics examinations and work in special manufacturing teams.

The reward would be an extra allowance of 10 per cent, which could add £54 to the £24 a week already on offer from the 10.2 per cent basic rate rise.

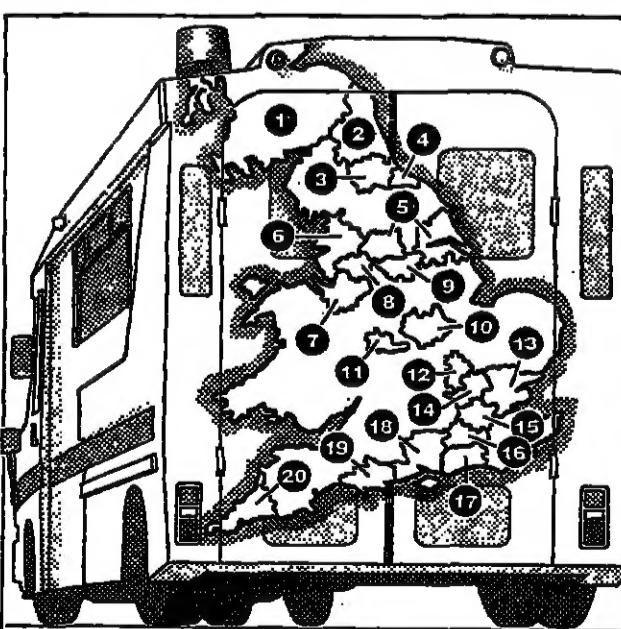
Unions are now prepared to call a fresh ballot after new negotiations next

Wednesday on the basic two-year offer, which would put 10.2 per cent extra in pay packets this year and 7.5 per cent or inflation plus 2.5 per cent, whichever is the greater, next year.

However, workers seem likely to reject the package. The unions point out that the company made £673 million profit last year and should have a surplus of more than £700 million this year.

One-hundred-and-fifty men on the Jaguar XJS sports car production line in Coventry walked out on one-day strike yesterday in a dispute over demarcation.

National view as ambulance dispute intensifies



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| 1. SCOTLAND
Glasgow control room staff vote to maintain 999 service but to restrict other duties. No army vehicles used, although police vans operating in some areas. | 2. NORTHUMBRIA
Covering Tyne and Wear and Northumbria. Most emergency services being handled by police and St John Ambulance volunteers. Crews in remote areas still working. Crews planning alternative service. | 3. DURHAM
Crews providing a full accident and emergency service. | 4. CLEVELAND
Labour-controlled county council consider alternative service. Crews refusing to cover part of North Yorkshire near by which they are funded to do. | 5. WEST YORKSHIRE AND PENINSULA
Crews working to TUC guidelines. | 6. LINCOLNSHIRE
Crews answering only 999 calls. | 7. CHESHIRE
Police on standby for first time. Ambulance control room assistants walk out, refusing to take instructions. | 8. GREATER MANCHESTER
Basic and auxiliary staff not working. Crews handling only 999 calls. North Western Regional Health Authority optimistic troops and police will not be needed. | 9. SOUTH YORKSHIRE
No out-patient services. Sixteen army ambulances assisting police and voluntary services. | 10. LEICESTERSHIRE
Crews covering only 999 calls. Withdrawal of goodwill between them and officers. | 11. WEST MIDLANDS
Army, police, Red Cross and St John handling emergency calls, together with crews who are working normally, across the region, which covers seven local authority areas. Labour-controlled Sandwell and Walsall councils have started alternative 999 service, manned by suspended crews using hired, reconditioned ambulances. All six Labour councils in region planning to have nationwide alternative service of 30 vehicles next week, with three "control" centres. The seventh council, Solihull, says it has over 50 vehicles available for emergencies. | 12. BEDFORDSHIRE
Six army vehicles assisting with emergency calls. | 13. ESSEX
Ten army ambulances on standby, crews respond only to direct public calls. Police assisting. | 14. NORTH HAMPSHIRE
Nine army vehicles assisting. Regular crews still at stations. | 15. HANTS
56 army ambulances assisting police. Five hundred ambulances immobilized, leaving 170 "frontline vehicles" for capital. Association of London Ambulance Services considering establishing own service. | 16. SUSSEX
Seven army ambulances standing by. Police assisting. | 17. DORSET
Sixty four ambulance men on unofficial strike. Crews in Dorset area plan 24 hour strike on Monday. Management considering police help. | 18. WILTSHIRE
Crews to hold first of series of 24-hour shifts operating "independent service" from three stations. Police vehicles used. | 19. DEVON
Eight army ambulances assisting police. | 20. CORNWALL
Crews answering emergency calls and taking at-risk patients to hospital. |
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As the ambulance dispute intensified yesterday with several crews walking out on indefinite strike, 164 army ambulances were assisting local authorities in nine regions. Services in some areas, including Wales, were working almost normally, but other parts of the country were facing severe problems.

Air controllers may be sought in US after pay clash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Air traffic controllers demanding £200-£300 a day to work overtime have been rebuffed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which plans instead to recruit additional controllers from the Armed Forces or the United States.

The authority asked controllers to work overtime last September when it became clear that there would be a drastic staff shortage this summer. It offered to pay volunteers a flat rate equivalent to normal pay [between £74 and £164, depending on

salary and experience, for an additional eight-hour shift]. The controllers' union, the Institute of Professional Managers and Specialists, told its members that the offer was insufficient and advised them not to respond. As a result, only two controllers from a fully-qualified operational staff of 1,400 have volunteered.

The union also insists that overtime should be strictly monitored to prevent fatigue, and says that no controller should do more than one extra

shift in 20. The CAA says it needs at least 100 more staff immediately because of the continued growth in air traffic, and that by 1992 it will require an additional 600.

In addition it plans to train former military controllers to civilian standards and to ask agencies in the US to find former controllers prepared to work in Britain.

● BBC staff are seeking an average pay rise of 15 per cent, in an attempt to catch up with salaries offered by commercial television and radio, which

are about 30 per cent higher (our Media Editor writes).

The claim will be formally submitted by unions on the eve of a meeting later this month at which BBC governors and executives are expected to approve a radical re-organization leading to job cuts of up to 25 per cent of the 28,000-strong workforce during the 1990s.

The pay demand includes a 20 per cent increase for the lowest-paid staff, who earn about £7,000 a year, and would be worth 15 per cent on

the average BBC salary, according to the the Broadcasters' and Entertainment Trades Alliance. It also includes higher weekend payments, better allowances and greater London weighting.

● The Times yesterday reported that the Government is considering a 15 per cent increase in the basic rate of pay for civil servants, which would bring it to £12,000 a year. The increase would be phased in over three years, starting from £10,000 in 1990, £11,000 in 1991 and £12,000 in 1992. The increase would also apply to the basic rate of pay for civil servants in the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Treasury, the Ministry of the Judiciary, the Ministry of the Church, the Ministry of the Arts, the Ministry of the Media, the Ministry of the Sports, the Ministry of the Leisure, the Ministry of the Culture, the Ministry of the Education, the Ministry of the Health, the Ministry of the Transport, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of the Agriculture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of the Treasury, the Ministry of the Judiciary, the Ministry of the Church, the Ministry of the Arts, the Ministry of the Media, the Ministry of the Sports, the Ministry of the Leisure, the Ministry of the Culture, the Ministry of the Education, the Ministry of 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MPs issue warning over listeria and support irradiation

By Sheila Gunn and Pearce Wright

Fears about the growing threat of food poisoning led to pressure on the Government yesterday to make listeria a notifiable disease and to support irradiation to combat food-borne infections.

Two reports from select committees of both Houses highlight the threat of listeria and other infections from modern methods of food production, processing and storage.

Their publication comes in the wake of the Commons agriculture committee report this week, which warned of the danger of eating eggs imported from countries without Britain's health controls.

The Commons social services committee called on doctors to be required to report all cases of listeria to health authorities.

Soft cheeses should be avoided by women who are even contemplating having a baby, particularly if they have had a miscarriage or stillbirth, it says.

Official figures estimate that one in 7,000 pregnant women loses her baby as a result of listeria - a total of more than 80 stillbirths or miscarriages a year in the UK.

In the cross-party committee's new report on listeria - its second in seven months - the committee stood by its earlier criticism that the Government should have warned pregnant women sooner about the risks of eating soft cheese.

The 124-page report from the House of Lords backs the Government's plans to allow the irradiation of food within the EC proposed limits to control the spread of listeria, salmonella and other food-borne infections.

However, the peers say it

could be open to abuse by unscrupulous traders who might use irradiation to mask stale food. They call on the Government to delay allowing the sale of irradiated food in Britain until a Community-wide scheme is agreed.

The Government is proposing to lift the ban on irradiated food but wants it marked to give consumers the choice.

The peers, like the Government, make clear they have been influenced in support for irradiation by the rise in food poisoning outbreaks.

Public Health Laboratory surveys found that up to 60 per cent of all uncooked chicken carcasses in shops is contaminated to some extent by salmonella, and the same percentage by listeria.

In addition, listeria infects 12 per cent of pre-cooked, ready-to-eat poultry; 16 per cent of salami-type sausages; 50 per cent of raw pork sausages; and 10 per cent of soft cheeses on sale.

The peers conclude: "The committee considers that irradiation could help to raise standards of food safety and to protect public health. The

committee stands by its earlier criticisms that "GPs and midwives could have played a more active part in the detection of listeriosis in their patients by being made more aware of the clinical details of the disease".

Mr Field: Second inquiry after government criticism.

First report: Food Poisoning, Listeria and Listeriosis Report. Follow Up, Commons social services select committee (Stationery Office, £6.20).

Fourth report: Irradiation of Foodstuffs, Lords European Communities select committee (Stationery Office, £13.90).

Royal smile for watchers at the window

CHRIS HARRIS



Onlookers crane to catch a glimpse of the Princess of Wales as she arrives for a visit to the Thomas Coram Foundation's homeless children's project at Camden, north London, yesterday. The Princess later met 11 families at the West Hampstead hostel where they live until they can be found a home, and was presented by the children with some of their own paintings. The project, a mobile unit, offers support services to homeless families.

tes loss

Department of Social Security officials found that up to a third of council tenants receiving income support failed to register - even though the Government's figures show the key question for tenants is how much loss of income they build into their budget assumptions for 1990-91.

Appeal for pub bomb trial notes

By Stewart Taylor, Crime Correspondent

Detectives investigating allegations against Surrey officers in the Guildford pub bombings have appealed to defendants for notes of the trial years ago because of a script or shorthand note.

Official notes of the trial were destroyed in 1982, a police appeal for help was made several weeks ago by an investigating team from Surrey and Somerset police, who are examining allegations of fabrication, concoction and suppression involving Surrey officers, one claim.

The three serving officers were suspended from duty last October after the Guildford pub bombings. The convictions of the three men and a woman convicted for the IRA bomb attack on a Guildford public house.

Last May, according to a Crown statement in the Court of Appeal, the Avon and Somerset officers for Surrey police papers were viewed with two of a defendants.

The absence of the script or official notes of the proceedings held at the trial in the Court of Appeal could be an embarrassment raising questions about the progress of the investigation and the time it is taking.

There is legal speculation about the results of the investigation. If the suspect officers are charged after long delay, magistrates could decide that the defendants have been unfairly treated because of the delay.

ncentive

Today on the basic two-tier system would put 100 per cent on in 1990-91 and 75 per cent on plus 10 per cent, whereas in 1989-90, it was 100 per cent.

intensifies

LONDON
The Home Office has announced that it will be replacing more than 14 area offices. In addition, three directorates, responsible for administration and devising policy ranging from security to sentence planning, will be set up at the headquarters.

The Home Office hopes the changes will ensure better liaison between government and headquarters staff, particularly on policy issues.

The Prison Governors Association said, however, that the changes, first proposed last August, would pose "considerable potential dangers" to staff, inmates and the public.

In an emergency, such as a prison riot, a governor could be directed by managers with little or no operational experience.

The association voiced "deep regret" about the decision, announced by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, and predicted that the system, which is due to be implemented in September, would break down and revert to the regional structure.

Mr Waddington said he believed the "radical changes" would enable the service to build on the reforms achieved in prison officer work practices and planned improvements in the capacity and quality of the prison estate.

Parts of the probation service could be hived off to voluntary groups or the private sector as part of new government plans.

A Green Paper published next month will propose that Britain's 7,000 probation officers should become more punishment-orientated and efficient in the delivery of their services.

SURREY
Surrey police officers are being urged to provide evidence in the Guildford pub bombings trial.

WEST SUSSEX
A Surrey police officer has been charged with fabricating evidence in the Guildford pub bombings trial.

HAMPSHIRE
A Hampshire police officer has been charged with fabricating evidence in the Guildford pub bombings trial.

DORSET
A Dorset police officer has been charged with fabricating evidence in the Guildford pub bombings trial.

CORNWALL
A Cornwall police officer has been charged with fabricating evidence in the Guildford pub bombings trial.

r pay clash

The average BBC salary is £10,000 a year, according to the BBC's own figures. The average salary in the public sector is £8,000 a year, according to the Trades Union Congress. The average salary in the private sector is £12,000 a year, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Governors oppose jail reshuffles

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

An overhaul of the senior management of the prison service, announced by the Government yesterday, was received angrily by prison governors who have strenuously opposed the plans.

The Government plans to move the service's headquarters from London to the Midlands. Its four large regional offices will be replaced by more than 14 area offices.

In addition, three directorates, responsible for administration and devising policy ranging from security to sentence planning, will be set up at the headquarters.

The Home Office hopes the changes will ensure better liaison between government and headquarters staff, particularly on policy issues.

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Doctor denied knowing of kidney payments

By John Young

The former president of the British Transplantation Society said yesterday that he had been assured by Dr Raymond Crockett, a Harley Street kidney specialist, that he had not known of any payments being made to donors in transplant operations during 1988.

Mr Robert Ross-Taylor, consultant surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, said that after adverse publicity in 1985 over reports of kidneys being offered for sale, the society had set up a committee to discuss the issues and

what action to take. Dr Crockett is one of three doctors appearing before the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council facing charges of serious professional misconduct. The others are Mr Michael Bewick, a transplant surgeon, and Mr Michael Joyce, a urologist. All three deny the charges.

Mr Ross-Taylor said that Dr Crockett was a member of the society and that he had spoken to him by telephone early last year when there was further publicity about the alleged sale of kidneys by donors from Turkey. Dr Crockett denied knowing that people were being paid. Mr Ross-

Taylor said he did not know Mr Joyce but had known Mr Bewick for many years.

Mr Bewick had been a society member but had left. Mr Ross-Taylor felt that it was to the society's detriment not to have somebody of Mr Bewick's status as a member and in November 1988 nominated him for membership with Mr Bewick's agreement.

Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GMC, asked Mr Ross-Taylor if he was able to form a judgment as to whether Mr Bewick was aware of the guidelines and principles of the society.

"I think it would be very reasonable

to assume that he did know of them," Mr Ross-Taylor replied. He was sure that in the aftermath of the 1985 reports Mr Bewick was involved in the debate on ethics.

Mr Taylor was asked what responsibility rested upon the shoulders of a surgeon operating on a live transplant donor. He said a surgeon was required to ensure that every operation was properly carried out in every sense.

In turn the surgeon responsible for transplanting the organ into the recipient must ensure that the donor was not being coerced and that he was medically fit to be an organ donor.

The hearing continues today.

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Breakfast-time cheer

The winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mrs Kathleen Garstang, of Chestham Bois, near Amersham, in Buckinghamshire.

"I was surprised and delighted at the news, especially when we heard there were no other claimants," she said. "My son Simon, an A-level student, usually gets his calculator out and does

the competition at the breakfast table."

He is to be rewarded with a special family holiday this summer, in between finishing his examinations and going on to university.

"We would like to visit Italy," his mother said. "But the two youngest members of the family are bidding for Disneyland, and we may be pestered into going there."

Bond puts 'Irises' on sale

Van Gogh's "Irises", the world's most expensive work of art, is up for sale "if the price is right".

Rumours of such a move have persisted for months as the business empire of Mr Alan Bond, the painting's owner, has crumbled. Confirmation came from Mr Michael Cross, managing director of Dalhousie Investment Ltd, which is owned by Mr Bond.

Speaking from Perth, Australia, Mr Cross said the painting, which fetched \$53.9 million (£30.2 million) in November 1987, is "not officially on the market" but "there is a preparedness at the right price to sell the painting". He added: "We have had several very serious offers and negotiations are continuing."

According to an eminent London Impressionist dealer there are "several interested parties, among whom are Japanese" and the price being discussed is about \$65 million. One candidate "got very

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

close to buying just before Christmas" but the deal fell through because he believed he might "be making a fool of himself" and might "get it cheaper if he waited until later".

The value of the painting has crucial significance for the art market. Its sale to Mr Bond less than one month after the Wall Street crash of October 1987 was watched anxiously amid fears of a slump. Instead, the price set a dramatic new standard, causing relief and a continuing boom.

Towards the end of last year, however, it emerged that Mr Bond had not made an outright purchase, but that Sotheby's had given him a \$27 million loan, using the painting as collateral. The disclosure sparked fears that the

price, and therefore the boom, was built on air.

Responding to widespread criticism of the arrangement, Sotheby's announced two modifications to its loans policy yesterday.

First, they will no longer accept as collateral any work of art which has not been fully owned for 90 days. Second, they plan to include notification in catalogues worldwide when they have guaranteed a price to the vendor - as occurred during the "Irises" sale.

A drawing by Goya of two starving men gorging on a dead animal, which was sold at Christie's in New York on Wednesday night, selling to a European dealer for \$715,000 (£430,722).

The work, entitled "Do those who escape work and up like this?", fetched three times the previous record for a drawing by the artist.

The auction had a high success rate, with only 6 per cent of its value unsold.

£1.5m swindle plot acquittal

By Michael Horsnell

A former City financier was cleared yesterday of trying to swindle his wealthy great aunt out of shares worth up to £1.5 million.

Mr Justin Frewen, aged 30, who the Crown alleged forged a letter saying he had power of attorney over the shares, walked free after a four-day

trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Mr Frewen, an Old Etonian and nephew of Lord Selby, said afterwards: "I am relieved and delighted."

The jury found him not guilty of conspiring with others to defraud his great aunt and February 1989 to obtain

from Barclays Bank duplicate certificates for shares using a power of attorney bearing the forged signature of his great aunt, Mrs Joan Lacon.

The jury was told that Mr Frewen, of Troville Road, Clapham, south London, had been blackmailed by a forger to join a fraud plot.

London University faces £43m debt

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

London University is facing a severe financial crisis. The debts of its 24 colleges will total £43 million next year and 15 colleges will be unable to clear their deficits within three years.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chief executive of the Universities Funding Council, has called for urgent talks with Lord Flowers, London University's vice-chancellor, after an independent assessment of the colleges' forecasts disclosed that the finances of eight gave "serious cause for concern" and a further seven were causing "concern".

Sir Peter said yesterday that London University colleges would have to cut spending sharply over the next two

three years. He said that he would be meeting Lord Flowers later this month to discuss the crisis although he emphasized that it would be up to the vice-chancellor and the college heads to decide how cuts should be made.

"I would not like to be the finance officer at any of the colleges causing concern," Sir Peter said.

Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, principal of the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, one of the institutions causing "serious concern" said that the finances had been knocked back by the costs of the merger between the Royal Holloway and the Bedford colleges and the "underfunded" salary settlement with academics last year.

Queen Mary College is also on the "serious" list, with a deficit of £200,000.

Professor Ian Butterworth, the principal, told The Times Higher Education Supplement that "we have already in the past made all the saving we can. It's the general London problem that we really have to talk about."

The principals of the London colleges and polytechnics have consistently argued for a boost to "London weighting", the supplements they get to their block grants from the funding councils to compensate for the increased costs of operating in the capital.

In addition, since the introduction of competitive price bidding for tuition fee allocations, designed by the funding council to keep costs down, London college fees that they will be further penalized for their location - and that expansion plans will be restricted.

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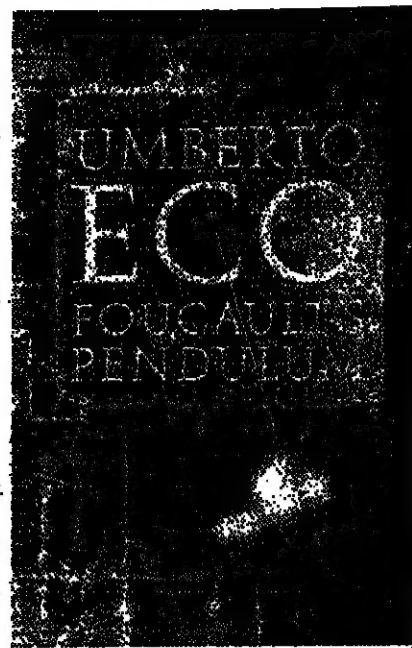
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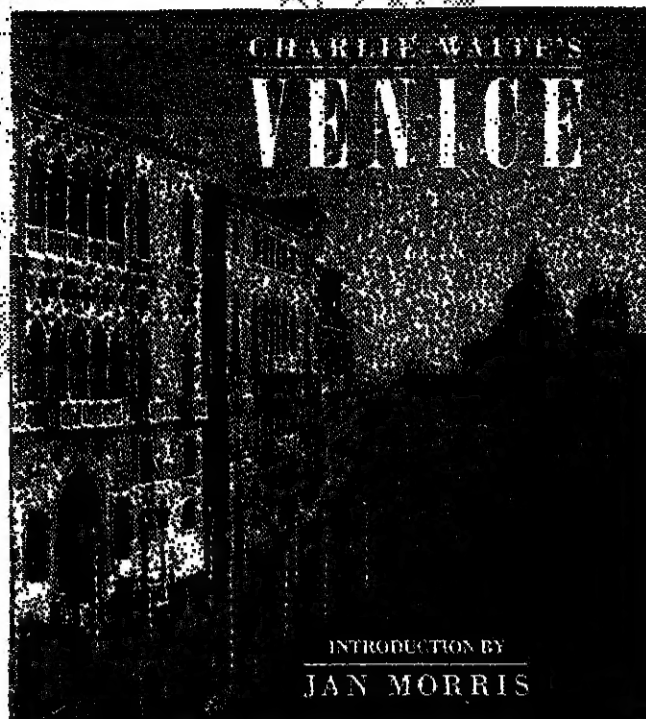


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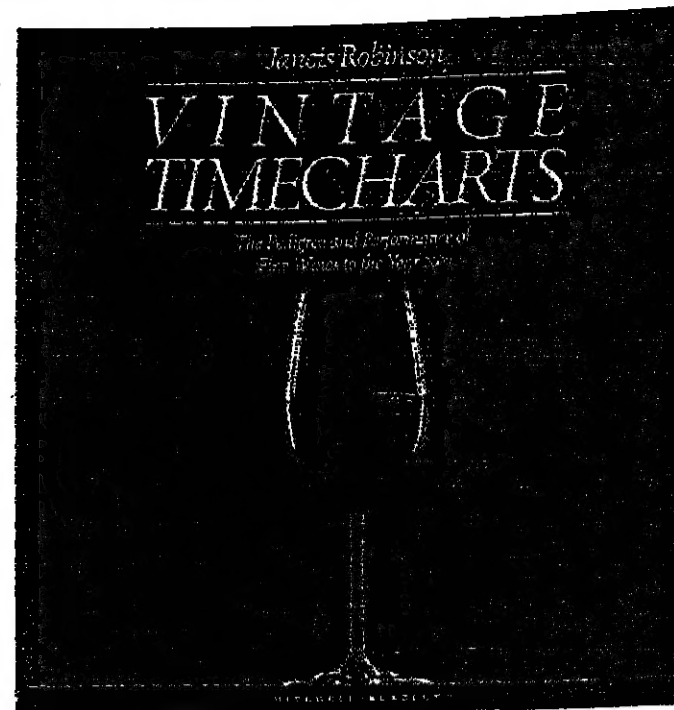
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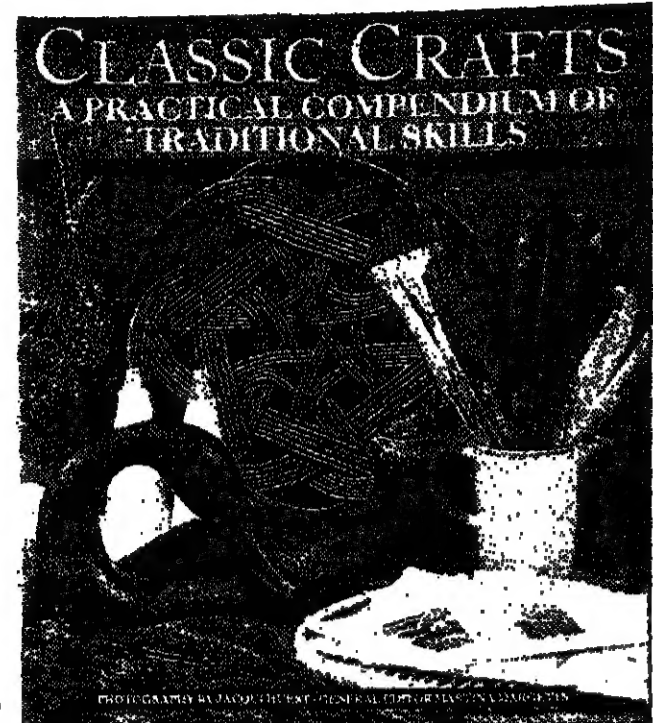
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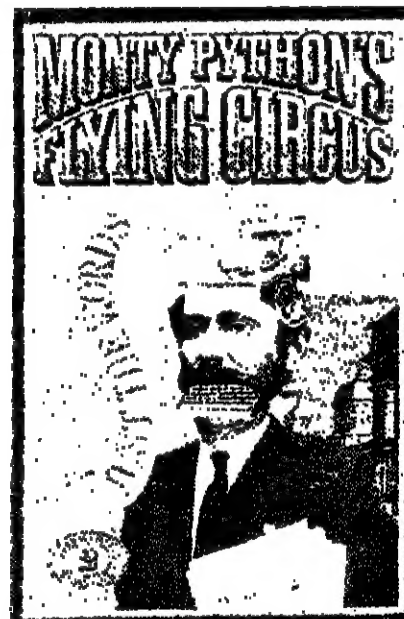


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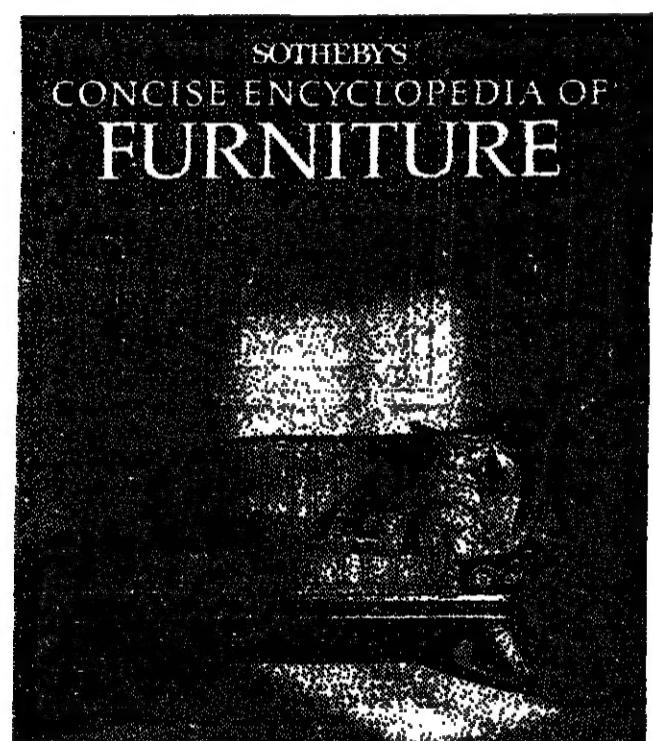


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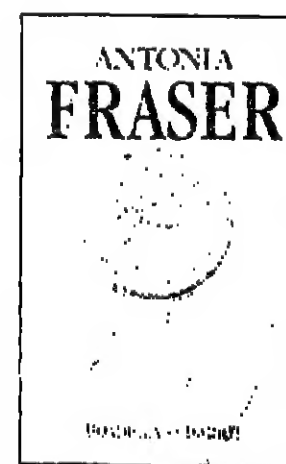
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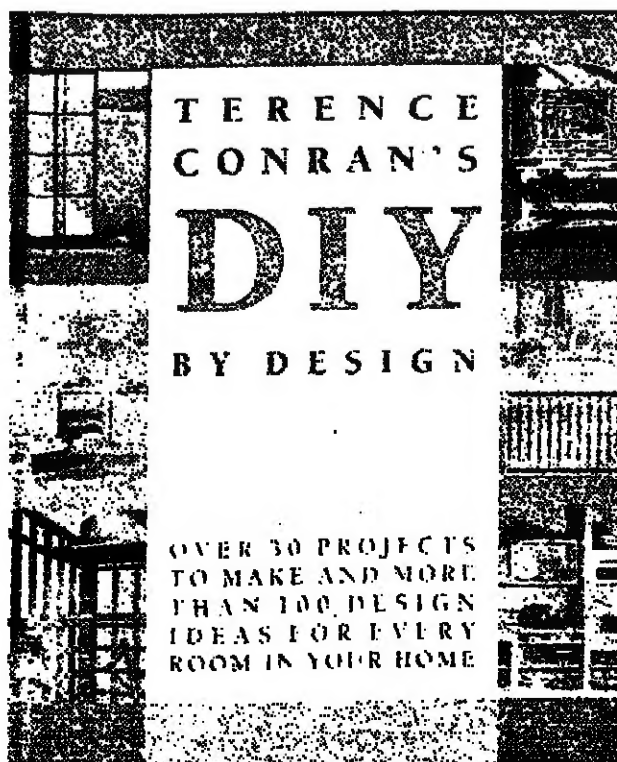
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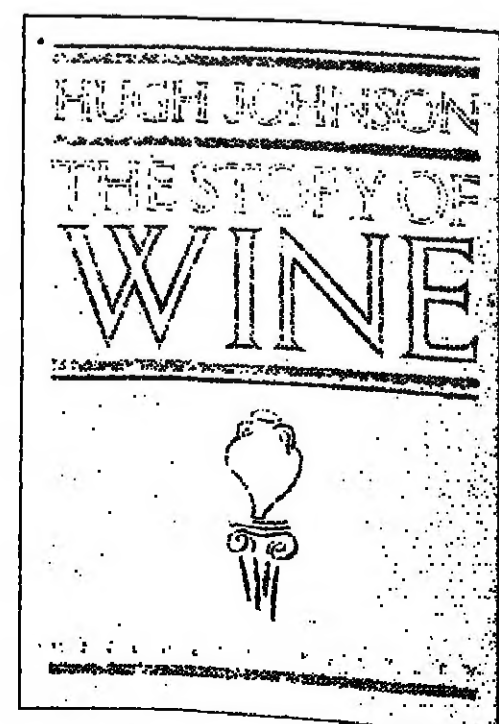
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contests

over the next three years. She won the Tour of Britain in 1987 and the Tour of Liverpool. Sport, p. 10

ck notes

beral GPs ave £11m

cial Services Correspondent

I be note - from a GP. How tors some GPs have liming the guidance as imal work in the same job and mal not. I was asked whether a person could do all the work. GPs are also com- ing to give sick notes if the pa- is unemployed for more than six weeks. The main officials (not degree of uncertainty) are GPs when deciding what someone could work. A reminder that to a "big" extent, doctors are controlling the requirements to consider capacity for all types of work. A study of 1989 done by the Audit Office shows that only a third had refused to issue a sickness certificate in the last six months. Of the remainder, most had refused two or three. Asked about their new view of social security laws

Most doctors have no understanding of invalidity benefit

78 per cent said that they had no understanding of invalidity benefit, and newly trained GPs had a 95 per cent.

Many GPs did not realise that invalidity benefit is more generous than unemployment benefit and that there were also benefits for the sick.

Almost half considered non-medical factors, such as loss of benefit if they were the terminally ill, and a few considered family responsibilities. Fourteen per cent considered the local employment situation as a factor in giving certificates.

The report recommends that the Department of Social Security should improve advice and training to doctors. When the Audit Office began its study, few doctors knew the rules.

s will speed up cases

Legal Affairs Correspondent

more cases, accident victims will not have to wait for their medical condition to be stabilised before litigation is started and an award made. At present, it is often six years after the injury before claimants receive their award of damages.

At the same time, the courts will now have the power as the High Court award provisional damages where the full extent of injury or illness is not known.

Lawyers acting for the victims of a Hillsborough disaster are pressing South Yorkshire police to increase the number of officers or to widen the net of people to whom compensation can be paid (Peter Dawson writes).

A spokeswoman for a group said yesterday that existing limits were not further stress and suffering to parents who had lost teenage children. The group is now asking for £2,500 to be paid to the parents of children under 18.

EC laws 'flouted' to make motorists buy costly cars in UK

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

The gap in car prices between Britain and the rest of the European Community is widening with UK buyers paying up to a third more than motorists across the Channel.

Yet British consumers buying abroad are being penalized by manufacturers, distributors and even the authorities in breach of European law, according to the European Consumers' Union.

The organization is demanding action by the European Commission so that motorists can be guaranteed the right to buy cars anywhere within the Common Market.

A highly-critical report disclosed that far from achieving the EC objective of harmonizing car prices across the 12 member nations, the gap between Britain and the rest was growing.

The EC allows for a differential of up to 12 per cent between nations to allow for local market conditions. However, average pre-tax car prices are 31 per cent higher in Britain than in Belgium, compared with 19 per cent in 1987.

In Britain, half of new cars bought by the company car fleet industry which pushes up

prices for higher specification models. A £12,500 Audi 80E cost about 43 per cent more than in Belgium.

The organization also found that a Citroen AX at £5,000 and a BMW 316, at £11,500 in the UK, were 38 per cent and 27 per cent more expensive.

The consumers' union, which screened 1,400 cars, said that manufacturers and distributors discouraged UK buyers from going abroad.

The report said some distributors would not honour warranties on imported cars. A number of dealers abroad, thought to be acting on the instructions of manufacturers, were refusing to sell models with right-hand drive to non-residents. They also imposed unreasonable delivery delays of up to a year and unjustifiable delivery costs.

The report accused public authorities, too, of imposing unfair delays in registering cars imported privately.

Singling out the UK, it said British car-licensing authorities repeatedly refused to register cars imported by professional "parallel" importers — companies outside official dealer networks helping in-

dividuals import cheaper cars. The consumers' organization said that Nissan and Isuzu in Britain had refused to honour guarantees on cars imported outside the dealer network. Rover and Volkswagen were accused of refusing to sell cars in the Irish Republic for shipment on to Britain.

The European Court of Justice has declared itself in favour of private car imports and the commission has set out rules on the matter.

However, the report added: "In spite of these community initiatives, consumers still encounter major problems when trying to benefit from the important price differences existing within the EC. Member states, as well as manufacturers and distributors, have introduced — entirely against the law — a wide range of obstacles to parallel imports."

Last night, Nissan dismissed claims that it would not fulfil warranty guarantees and said it would cover all guarantees for its customers. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said cars may look cheaper abroad but might not have the high specifications of UK models.

Cycle star heads home for city contests

ADRIAN BROOKS



The cycling star Jerry McLoughlin does some forward planning for a series of races to be held in 10 British cities over the next three years. Scottish President, the life assurance company, has provided £2.5 million in a record sponsorship of the sport. McLoughlin, who won the Tour of Britain in 1987, has since competed on the Continental circuit. He says he is eager to return to racing in Britain, particularly in his home town of Liverpool. *Sports, page 36*

Sick notes

'Less liberal GPs could save £11m'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

At least £11 million could be saved every year if doctors were less liberal in handing out sick notes, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

A report from the Comptroller and Auditor General argues that too many people are receiving invalidity benefit because doctors are unaware of the criteria for eligibility and often put too much weight on family and social circumstances.

The number receiving invalidity benefit, which is given after six months' sickness, has risen from 760,000 in 1983/84 to more than a million in 1987/88, it says.

The cost increased from £2.4 billion to £3.15 billion during the same period and is expected to exceed £4 billion this year.

The growth in expenditure reflected three trends: more go on to benefit than come off, and people are receiving it longer; the average age of recipients is increasing; and the proportion of married women on benefit is increasing.

"Evidence suggests that non-medical factors have contributed to this growth rather than any underlying increase in the incidence of sickness," the report says.

A 1 per cent drop in the number of people receiving the untaxed benefit would save almost £11 million a year, the report says.

The Audit Office emphasized that it was not trying to penalize the sick. Those entitled to invalidity benefit would get it. Those that were not, were likely to get other, admittedly less generous benefits, such as unemployment benefit or income support.

The basic rate of invalidity benefit is £43.60 a week, although additional payments can increase this to £60 or £100 a week.

To qualify, a person has to obtain a statement of incapacity to work in any job — a sick

note — from a GP. However, some GPs have interpreted the guidance as inability to work in the same job and have not considered whether the person could do alternative work. GPs are also more likely to give sick notes if the person is unemployed for reasons other than sickness.

The audit officials found "a degree of uncertainty" among GPs when deciding whether someone could work, and concluded that to a "significant extent" doctors were overlooking the requirement to consider capacity for other types of work.

A Gallup poll of 989 doctors by the Audit Office showed that only a third had refused to issue a sickness certificate in the last six months. Of the remainder, most had only rejected two or three.

Asked about their awareness of social security benefits,

6 Most doctors have no understanding of invalidity benefit

78 per cent said that they had little or no understanding of invalidity benefit. Among newly trained GPs, the figure rose to 93 per cent.

Many GPs did not know that invalidity benefit was more generous than unemployment benefit or realize that there were alternative benefits for the sick.

Almost half considered non-medical factors, such as loss of benefit if they refused the certificate, and a third considered family circumstances. Fourteen per cent considered the local employment situation as a factor in giving certificates.

The report recommends that the Department of Social Security should improve guidance and training to doctors.

National Audit Office Report on Invalidity Benefit (Stationery Office: £4.60)

Reforms will speed up damages cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Victims of accidents are likely to win awards of damages more swiftly as the result of a package of reforms to speed up civil court procedures published yesterday.

Under the new rules, more disputes are also likely to be settled out of court as litigants will be encouraged to be more open.

Courts will have tougher powers to impose costs penalties, where parties in a dispute unreasonably refuse to admit facts or disclose documents before trial.

There will be new, strict time limits for the serving of a writ, generally four months from the date of issue by the court, in place of the present 12-month limit.

The new rules, the first batch in a series of reforms to court procedures being brought by the Lord Chancellor's Department, implement recommendations of the Civil Justice Review Body in 1988.

From February 5, courts in personal injury cases will have wider powers to try the issue of liability — who is at fault — separately from the issue of damages.

That means that in many

more cases, accident victims will not have to wait until their medical condition has stabilized before liability is decided and an award made.

At present, it is often several years after the injury before claimants receive their award of damages.

At the same time, county courts will now have the same power as the High Court to award provisional damages where the full extent of the injury or illness is not yet known.

Lawyers acting for the families of victims of the Hillsborough disaster are pressing South Yorkshire police to increase the statutory amount of bereavement damages and to widen the categories of people to whom they can be paid (Peter Davenport writes).

A spokeswoman for the group said yesterday that existing limits were causing further stress and suffering, particularly to parents who had lost teenage children. At present, bereavement damages of £3,500 are paid to a spouse or the parents of victims under 18.

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KATIE WOOD
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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Repression of Prague Spring 'was treason'

Prague (Reuters) — Czechoslovakia's chief prosecutor says he is prepared to investigate former Communist leaders on treason charges for inviting Soviet troops into the country in 1968 to halt the "Prague Spring" reforms.

Mr Pavel Sitar, appointed this month by the new non-Communist-led Government, said: "Everyone agrees a crime of treason was committed in 1968."

He said the opportunity to charge hardliners suspected of "inviting" the Soviet Union to send troops had lapsed after 20 years. But if the Supreme Court and other legal bodies were to reconsider this law and "give an authoritative ruling on the lapse, we could reopen the case."

A Soviet force with token units from other Warsaw Pact countries entered Czechoslovakia in August 1968, and Mr Alexander Dubcek, the reformist party leader, was removed from office.

Mr Sitar spoke as the country's police force, under unprecedented scrutiny, showed signs of unrest. Mr Richard Sacher, the new non-Communist Interior Minister, has accused hardline Communists of stirring up trouble among the police, the newspaper *Lidova Demokracie* said yesterday.

Mr Sitar, heading a team investigating police violence against pro-democracy demonstrators in Prague on November 17, said he could "open his brief if others made this possible."

"Events surrounding November 17 were very important, but so is the responsibility of those who created the mechanism which allowed it to happen," he said.

"We are intensively investigating this (wider) background... linked to people who lost their parliamentary immunity."

Mr Sitar said the former Prague party leader, and Mr Milos Jakes, the national party chief, were

stripped of immunity in December after a parliamentary commission said it considered them politically responsible for the police violence in November.

Mr Sitar has been charged with preparing to abuse his official position. A commission lawyer, Mr Josef Danisz, said Mr Jakes was unlikely to face criminal charges over the incident. Broader investigations could succeed only if documentary proof were produced.

The issue of holding police and former Communist politicians accountable for the past has emerged as a central problem in all Eastern bloc countries. In East Germany the lack of public trust in the security police has caused a political crisis.

Mr Sitar said a decision had been made in Czechoslovakia to disband the security police, but "its dissolution is not as simple as it sounds".

"There is a strong distrust rooted in the public. We have to do everything to regain its confidence. That is why I am here," he said.

Mr Sacher was expected to meet police chiefs tomorrow to discuss their worries about the future as well as proposals to set up a police union. He has tried to dissuade the police from forming a union, saying that "even in countries where free trade unions exist, there are certain professions which cannot go on strike".

Such moves were being co-ordinated by "the people who are not in favour of this tender revolution", he said, apparently referring to Communist hardliners. "The revolution may be tender, but it should not be naive."

Mr Sacher has reassured the police that they still have a role to play. "Any civilized society needs a police force," he said on Tuesday. But its role should be "not repression but prevention (of crime)", and he would dismiss anyone proved guilty of corruption or abuse of power.

East Germany unearths 'US spy transmitter'



Two unidentified East German army technicians holding what is claimed to be an American spy transmitter which they allegedly found buried in a forest near the Irfersgrün military base. The apparatus was said to be designed to transmit data on explosions and vehicle movements to an orbiting US satellite.

Greek Church warns Albania on human rights

Belgrade — Amid allegations of the torture and murder of ethnic Greeks in Albania, the Greek Orthodox Church yesterday called on Communist Albania, Greece's north-western neighbour, to improve its human rights record (Dessa Trevisan writes).

"I am warning the Tirana regime that the policy it has followed so far will lead to international isolation and

certain collapse," Archbishop Seraphim, the Greek Orthodox primate, declared in an unprecedented statement during a huge protest rally of several thousand people in central Athens.

The rally was staged to protest against the suppression of human rights for the 400,000 minority ethnic Greeks in Albania.

With such international pressure on

the Albanian regime continuing to mount, a state of emergency has been imposed at Shkoder, Albania's second biggest city, which is near the country's northern border with Yugoslavia, a Yugoslav newspaper claimed yesterday.

Politika gave no indication of the source of its report, but said the move had been provoked by young people

who had been distributing leaflets calling on the population to rise against the Government.

It said police controls had since been reinforced throughout the region, and special passes reintroduced for Albanians wanting to move from one place to another. The guard at the presidential palace and other sensitive buildings had been trebled, it said.

Brussels lifeline is put to the test

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Western Europe's attempt to throw a lifeline to the struggling new democracies in Eastern Europe will be tested by three important initiatives this weekend.

There will be a preliminary meeting in Paris to set up the new Bank for European Reconstruction and Development, a visit by a top European Community official to Romania, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia to assess those countries' urgent needs, and a visit to Poland by the EC Agriculture Commissioner to look at the food situation.

The permanent representatives of the Twelve held a lengthy meeting here yesterday to try to draw up a common EC position on the new bank, the brainchild of the French, which was formally given the go-ahead at the Strasbourg summit.

On Sunday the Group of 24 Western donor nations will meet in Paris to discuss the bank's structure, and on Tuesday they will begin a two-day meeting with the East European nations, including the Soviet Union, which will be the borrowers from the bank's funds. Optimists are hoping that the bank can be formally constituted by March.

Britain, however, has voiced reservations on the whole scope of the bank's functions, capital and lending policy.

French minister offers EC aid to restore Romania

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The first Western minister to visit Romania since December's revolution yesterday pledged new efforts to increase European Community co-operation to assist with the country's costly reconstruction programme.

Speaking after emotional visits to the sites of some of the fiercest fighting, Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, promised to raise "a number of problems in regard to co-operation between the EC and Romania" at next week's EC foreign ministers' meeting in Dublin.

Mr Dumas's visit was a welcome boost for Romania's provisional Government, which faces mounting pressure at home for its alleged failure to break sufficiently with the country's communist past.

In an effort to defuse criticism, the ruling National

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is to visit Romania on Monday (Michael Knipe writes). He will be the first British minister to visit Bucharest since the uprising against the Ceausescu regime last month and expects to have talks with senior members of the interim Government. He will make a first-hand assessment and familiarise himself with the politicians involved.

Salvation Front has announced that it will hold round-table discussions with the seven new political parties next week at which the key issue will be the date for the holding of Romania's general election.

The French minister went out of his way to dismiss Paris-inspired rumours that the revolution was part of a carefully orchestrated plot rather than a spontaneous uprising of an oppressed population.

He referred one questioner back to the French press, which he blamed for perpetuating the theory, which has been vigorously denied by the Salvation Front.

However, on January 3 M Dumas said in Paris that France and probably the Soviet Union had been told as

long ago as last summer of the existence of a group of Communist Party members hostile to the Ceausescu regime.

In an interview with the French Europe-1 radio network, M Dumas had said: "I knew because our Ambassador there did his job. They (the Soviet authorities) undoubtedly knew, too."

Yesterday M Dumas said at a press conference guarded by Romanian troops in full combat gear: "It is clear that such a dictatorship as was overthrown here had to foster an opposition, but not necessarily an organized opposition."

"What I have seen is that this uprising was a profoundly popular one."

He added: "I did not believe in a coup or in a plot. But there had to be an opposition to a regime which tortured people and sent them into exile. I am now more convinced than ever that it was the Romanian people who overthrew the dictatorship."

M Dumas said that his visit had reinvigorated the traditionally close economic and cultural relationship between France and Romania. He pledged further French government aid to help Romania.

Earlier, the Romanian press carried accounts by militia-men involved in the arrest of the Ceausescus of how the late dictator had offered a bribe of \$5 million to one of them in an bid to persuade him to allow the couple to escape to a village where they had a secret hideaway.

The leading daily *Adevartul* (Truth) said the bribe had been refused by the officer concerned. Other members of the arrest squad were quoted as saying that Ceausescu had complained that he had been given stale bread to eat and had asked for a new suit after he had been in custody for 24 hours. It was his custom to have a complete set of new clothing daily. The old one was always burnt.

The paper's account told how members of the public, whom the dictator referred to as "hooligans", chanted as the vehicle in which he was driven went past: "You left us without bread, without heat and without light."

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Secret police become the new Sam Spades of Poland

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Move over, Philip Marlowe; hang up your holster, Sam Spade: this is for real. There is no loping blonde in the Warsaw offices of the Cerber Protection Agency, no hard stuff in the drawer.

Private eyes are in vogue in Eastern Europe, and they have a suspiciously professional air about them. Economic reform has opened the way for a new entrepreneurial breed, rich businessmen who feel nervous in the classless society.

At the same time the infrastructure of a police state has started to crumble. Secret agents are out of work, and they are missing the old rough and tumble. So supply is adjusting to demand: retired and sacked policemen are setting up their own detective or bodyguard bureaux.

You can spot them in the luxury hotels, wearing the shiny brown suits

they favoured while tailing dissidents. They are the customers who note down the price of every bill after ordering coffee, who strain to catch the conversation of expensively manicured women chatting with much younger but still expensively manicured men.

It is a comedown from the old days when they would pursue Mr Jacek Kuron — now a Cabinet minister — down the stairs, track him through Warsaw, and give him a bit of a dusting.

Over at the Warsaw police precinct, Colonel Krzysztof Zagodzinski is looking worried.

He is getting between five and 10 applications a day to set up detective agencies, mainly from former colleagues in the Interior Ministry, uniformed or secret police, but also from former soldiers.

Dismantling the secret police has entailed closing down their anti-Church and anti-opposition departments and

drastic cutbacks in the bugging of flats. The secret police have been renamed the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and lost some of their old glamour in the process.

The problem for Colonel Zagodzinski is that there are no guidelines for detective bureaux. All he can do is exclude known criminals and the mentally deranged.

"Some former soldiers who were released from the Army because they were mentally unstable or clearly mentally ill have applied. Of course, we turned them down," he said.

The Cerber Protection Agency is in safer hands — four former police officers. They still have good relations with the Interior Ministry, which probably helps when they vet the background of suspects. Their brief is to protect villas, private shops and warehouses, transport vehicles, supply bodyguards and detect crimes more efficiently than the state

police. For the time being, they come fairly cheaply — about 60p an hour plus expenses, compared to more than £50 an hour in Los Angeles.

So far most of their work is in the Philip Marlowe mould: errant wives, disappearing husbands. Since alimony is indexed for inflation, a cuckolded husband can save a considerable amount by showing the divorce court that his wife is deeply in the wrong.

Crime appears to be rising quickly in Poland, the Soviet Union and East Germany, although the usual analytical problems apply with this claim: perhaps people simply trust the police more and are reporting crimes more often. But anecdotal evidence confirms there is an outbreak of violent crime, especially muggings and rape.

Houses with satellite dishes — a sign of wealth — are frequently burgled. There is an active trade in guard dogs although, given the price of meat, it is cheaper to

hire oneself a human bodyguard. The new wave of private detective agencies caters for the rich and anxious. Mr Andrzej Murawski, of Cerber, says: "We could mobilize a team of 20, put our people on every street corner, if necessary with night vision devices. There are people around who would commission us to do that, and who can afford it."

Indeed, with most of the restraints falling from private enterprise, millionaires abound. There are jewellers, manufacturers of sun-glasses, perfumers, cake wholesalers, computer importers and money-changers who have become *de facto* private bankers. They deal in large sums of dollars, almost always in cash, and use their own security networks.

As foreign companies think about investing in Eastern Europe they need as much intelligence as possible about future partners; this, too, can be supplied

by the former secret policemen. A sign of the times is the Garda Property Protection Agency, which has opened the first gun shop in Eastern Europe. Provided you get an approving letter from the local police chief — usually granted unless you have a criminal record or are under age — it is now an easy matter to buy a gun and ammunition.

There seem to be no restrictions on calibre — Magnums, Colts and many others besides are imported from West Germany. East Germany forbids the transport of arms over its territory, so most of the small arms have come through Vienna and Czechoslovakia.

Those who hired guns are of the human variety have developed an appropriate advertising pitch. One detective agency director said: "If a Western capitalist wants a bodyguard, we are ready — we can provide the finest."

Modrow olive branch to opposition

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin, and Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Hans Modrow, the beleaguered East German Prime Minister, has offered the opposition a greater say in the running of the country to offset criticism of his Government's authoritarian style.

He told the first session of the Volkskammer (parliament) in East Berlin this year that the country's peaceful revolution gave it an historic opportunity it must not waste, and called on the opposition to work constructively with the Government in the run-up to the May elections.

"We are ready to talk with all the participants of the Round Table and have offered them the chance to work with us," he said. He also called on the opposition to present concrete suggestions to the Government and choose suitable representatives to take a "direct and responsible part" in the task of government.

However, he refused to grant opposition demands for a right of veto on government decisions, and warned that public attacks on the legitimacy of his Government would not help to restore political order in the country. His Government had a legitimate right to rule, he said. "I do not recall having become Prime Minister in a putsch."

Herr Modrow's comments came the day after Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, said the Government was viewing political developments in East Germany with growing concern, particularly over the way in which the Communists appeared to be trying to stop the opposition parties from being given a fair chance in the general elections, which are fixed for May 6.

All the main parties in West Germany, however, have since roundly criticized Herr Modrow's declaration to the

Volkskammer, including the leaders of all three coalition parties.

Herr Volker Rübe, General Secretary of the Christian Democrats, found that there was "a far from adequate signal" for an intensification of co-operation between Bonn and East Berlin. Herr Modrow's ideas were a long way behind what was happening in Poland and Hungary. His misgivings were echoed by Herr Theodor Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union, who said that there should be no question of a co-operation treaty being signed with East Germany until after the election, and Frau Cornelia Schmalz-Jacobsen, General

Bonn — Herr Alexander Schalk-Golodowski, aged 57, who was in charge of East German trade and currency dealings with the West, fears a lynch trial if he returns home and has decided to stay in West Germany (Ian Murray writes). He gave himself up in West Germany last month while being sought by East Germany on charges of corruption and currency fraud, but was released on Tuesday.

Secretary of the Free Democrats (FDP).

For the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), Herr Hans Böcher said all the signs were that Herr Modrow was trying to consolidate the party's hold on the Volkskammer.

Herr Modrow's speech was a clear attempt to extend an olive branch to the aggrieved opposition within East Germany, who have been threatening to quit the Round Table talks and withdraw their support from Herr Modrow's Government if he did not offer them concessions.

However, his speech was less conciliatory than many

had expected. He criticized the opposition's demand last Monday that he appear before the Round Table to defend his security policy. He also refused the opposition's demands that no new security service be founded in the country to replace the Office of National Security, which is currently being dissolved.

He told the parliament that such a service was necessary to arrest the rise of neo-Nazism in the country.

He promised that the opposition would, however, receive a full account of the intended structure of the security services when it resumes the Round Table talks with the Government next Monday. No old structures, the Prime Minister said, would be left within the redesigned security service, although he stopped short of promising that it would not employ former workers of the Ministry for State Security, as many opposition groups fear.

After widespread protests, including strike action, former state security workers who had been promised three years' redundancy payment will now receive only the statutory payment for one year.

Herr Modrow admitted that industry was suffering from the haemorrhage of East German labour to the West and that 250,000 vacancies could not be filled. More than 1,000 people continue to leave the country daily, in spite of pleas from both the East and West German Governments that they stay in the GDR.

The state of the East German economy was also admitted in full for the first time, with Herr Modrow speaking of gaps and discontinuity in production and failure to fulfil orders, due mainly to the lack of workers and failing materials.



Herr Modrow, right, and Herr Manfred Gerlach, the interim President, in the Volkskammer.

Yugoslavia takes its first steps towards democracy

Belgrade (AP) — Yugoslavia's ruling League of Communists is preparing to give up its monopoly of power and allow the first multi-party elections in 45 years, a leading communist said yesterday.

Mr Stefan Keresec, secretary of the policy-making Central Committee, told a press conference that the communist party would take part in the legislative elections in Yugoslavia's six republics "just as another party (would) with its new programme".

Elections in the republics, which send deputies to the national legislature, are scheduled for April. The new programme, which Mr Keresec said "departs from the model of

authoritarian" communism, still had to be adopted at an extraordinary party congress, which is scheduled to start on January 20.

Yugoslavia had a multi-party system before the Second World War, but that was abolished when the communists led by Tito came to power in 1945.

Mr Keresec also presented to reporters for the first time a final draft of a declaration to be approved by the congress in which the party pledges to relinquish its monopoly on power. It also calls for "free, direct and secret" multi-party elections. The draft declaration says that Yugoslav communists "advocate full participation (of Yugo-

slavia) in European integration processes (including) its membership in the European Community, the Council of Europe, the European Free Trade Association and other similar organizations and institutions".

Mr Keresec said that leaders in all of Yugoslavia's divergent communist republics supported the declaration "in principle". However, he also indicated that the document could cause fierce debate between hard-liners and more liberal communists.

Yugoslav communists were first to break with the Soviet-led Communist bloc in 1948, but Yugoslavia, faced with its worst economic and political crisis, has been slower

in adopting the reforms that have swept through Eastern Europe.

Mr Keresec did not elaborate on what, if any, legal guarantees would be made that the party was giving up its leading role. In Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany articles in the constitution guaranteeing the leading role of the party have been scrapped. In Bulgaria, similar steps have been promised.

Yugoslavia is reworking its constitution, and if the document is adopted in its present form at next week's congress, it is likely the constitutional reference to the party's leading role will be scrapped.

Mr Keresec said he thought "the communists cannot lose next April's

elections", but if they did they might form a coalition with other left-wing parties, such as the Socialist Alliance which is now a communist-led mass organization but plans to constitute itself as an independent party.

Even though Yugoslavia has not formally adopted a law allowing independent political groups and parties to form, numerous political parties have sprung up in the past few months.

Some of the parties have clear nationalist programmes, which has led to fears that this could lead to open clashes between the republics that could seriously threaten the country's unity.

Soviet defence bill 'is double Kremlin claim'

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Soviet defence spending is double the 77.3 billion roubles (about £79 billion) admitted by President Gorbachev, according to estimates in an internal Nato document which accuses Moscow of putting artificially low price tags on certain military activities.

The latest alliance analysis of Soviet military expenditure came on the eve of the next round of negotiations in the Conventional Forces in Europe talks, which begin in Vienna today.

The Nato and Warsaw Pact delegations have three six-week sessions until the end of June, during which they will have to resolve most of the outstanding problems if there is to be a chance of a treaty-signing ceremony this year.

The Nato study estimates that the defence budget for 1988 was 130 billion to 160 billion roubles (£133 billion to £163 billion), some 15 to 18 per cent of the Soviet gross domestic product and about double the figure for 1989 announced by Mr Gorbachev to the Congress of People's Deputies on May 30 last year.

The Nato analysis does not include Soviet spending in 1989, but the report acknowledges that there are signs the country is cutting its huge military budget.

The report, completed in November as the Berlin Wall crumbled, says: "While Nato remains highly sceptical regarding Soviet claims for their defence expenditures, it appears that the Soviet Union is indeed beginning to trim its defence outlays."

It adds: "A number of major procurement programmes, particularly in the land armaments area, are being scaled back, although it is far too early to tell whether... the Soviet Union will meet Mr Gorbachev's stated spending cuts (of 14.2 per cent in military production and 19.5 per cent in production)."

In a recent speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, Mr Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet Finance Minister, said the full 14 per cent reduction in military spending would be implemented by the end of 1991. He also said the 1990 defence budget would be 70.9 billion roubles.

One reason for the low Soviet figure on defence spending, the alliance report says, is the apparent exclusion

of several military activities counted by Nato in its estimates, including military space and some personnel.

But its add: "Until the Soviet Union provides information on its defence activities in detail, it will be difficult to account fully for the differences (in spending estimates)."

Underlining Nato's mood of caution towards the dramatic changes that have taken place in the last few months, the report says: "Even if the announced cuts were in place by 1991, it would be extremely difficult to know what Soviet spending will be beyond 1991."

"The period of the 13th five-year plan, 1991-1995, is likely to be one of great change, politically, economically and militarily in the Soviet Union. Therefore, any conclusions concerning the level and growth of military expenditures are highly uncertain."

One of the key factors will be the effect that arms control agreements, in particular in the conventional forces area, will have on Soviet defence spending.

As the Nato and Warsaw Pact heads of delegations meet in Vienna today, one area for negotiation is the level of destruction that will be necessary for each piece of equipment to satisfy both sides that it cannot be used again for military purposes.

It is not yet clear, for example, whether a combat aircraft should be reduced "to razor blades" or whether parts of it could be removed and used for spares.

This is a crucial aspect because the cost of the whole Conventional Forces in Europe implementation process is going to prove a nightmare, especially for the Soviet Union which has far more tanks, armoured troop carriers and artillery to destroy than any other country.

The US Defence Intelligence Agency has concluded that the Soviet Army is maintaining large stockpiles of ammunition and fuel in Eastern Europe as it withdraws some of its units, according to *The New York Times* newspaper yesterday.

Next Tuesday in Vienna, chiefs of defence staff from 33 nations will take part in a military doctrine seminar to discuss the structure of their armed forces, training, military budgets and planning.

Man in the News: Algirdas Brazauskas

Engineer who aims to remake a nation

By Daniel Treisman

When President Gorbachev chose Mr Algirdas Brazauskas to head the Lithuanian branch of the Communist Party in October, 1988, the silver-haired former hydro-electric engineer must have seemed to him an example of the new type of freethinking, energetic reformer who might be able to rebuild the party's shattered legitimacy in the republic.

The irony is that 15 months later he seems to be succeeding in that aim at the cost of splitting with Moscow. The Lithuanian Communists have soared in popularity while the latest poll shows Sajudis, the nationalist movement, slipping back in public esteem. About six weeks before crucial legislative elections, the poll shows that Mr Brazauskas is the most popular politician in the republic.

In becoming that, he has created for Mr Gorbachev the most serious constitutional crisis of his five years in power. To accept Mr Brazauskas's break with the Soviet party is to invite party leaders from Estonia to Georgia to follow suit and declare in-

dependence; to resist means going against the 82 per cent of Lithuanians who approve of the split. Mr Brazauskas's remarkable popularity — one poll as far afield as the Ukrainian city of Lwow last year ranked him second only to the late Andrei Sakharov, the human rights campaigner — is a tribute to the sometimes courageous way he has dis-

engaged himself from a lifetime of party discipline to embrace the national cause. Born in Rokiskis, Lithuania, in 1932 — he is a year younger than Mr Gorbachev — Mr Brazauskas joined the party in 1959. Like the Soviet leader, he spent decades rising patiently through the apparatus, serving as Minister for Construction Materials and later as Secretary for Economic Affairs.

He showed himself prepared for change, however, when Mr Gorbachev's reforms opened the floodgates to an unprecedented revival of nationalism. In July, 1988, as the first demonstrators took to the streets of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, to press

for independence, he was the only high-ranking Communist official brave enough to address the crowds.

Three months later, Interior Ministry troops violently suppressed a mass meeting in the

sent Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, his close aide, to meet party leaders in the republic that August, according to Mr Saulius Suziedelis, an analyst of Lithuanian events for the *Voice of America*.

"He was known as someone who wasn't afraid to get up and speak to people at rallies. Not many people in the party were doing that; they were just hiding," Mr Suziedelis said.

Mr Brazauskas won much public goodwill when, as one of his first acts in office, he announced that the cathedral in Vilnius, used for years as an art gallery, would be returned to the Catholic Church.

His relations with Mr Gorbachev are thought to be warm. As recently as last summer, according to one report, he was in close contact with the Soviet President, talking to him by telephone at least once a week. Mr Gorbachev has in the past referred to him as "a friend" but the relationship may have grown strained as the Lithuanian leader's position edged closer to outright separatism.

The Soviet President had

Thursday's six-hour meeting in the Kremlin he made the historic gesture of presenting Mr Gorbachev with a plan and a timetable for Lithuanian independence. The very fact that Mr Gorbachev apparently listened to such a plan has pushed him "across a certain bridge", according to Mr Suziedelis.

Back home in Vilnius, Mr Brazauskas is admired for his steadiness of purpose, according to an emigrant who remains in close contact with the republic. "Having made a decision, he does not go back on it. He is like a buffer. You push him in front of something and he just takes all the blows," he said.

A towering, barrel-chested former yachtsman, Mr Brazauskas strikes visitors as sincere and down-to-earth. Some, observing the spirited national democrat who has emerged from a dull Brezhnevite chrysalis, wonder how deep his new convictions lie and whether some of the apparent jockeying with Moscow might be merely for show.

Vilnius rendezvous, page 14

Bering Strait feels benefit of thaw in the Cold War

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

The thaw in superpower relations is being felt even in the frozen wastes of Alaska and Siberia. In Washington this week, US and Soviet officials announced that they had agreed to establish an international park spanning the Bering Strait.

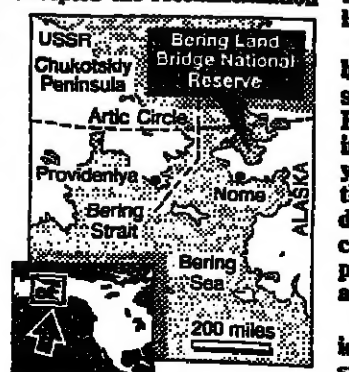
A joint feasibility study by the National Parks Services of the two nations, said the purpose would be "to promote the protection, understanding and enjoyment of the common heritage of Beringia", as the region of icebound wilderness on both sides of the narrow strip of sea is known.

Beringian natives would be able to resume ancient historical and cultural links disrupted by the Cold War. Wildlife managers will be able to track walrus, birds and other animals which migrate between the continents. Natural historians and scientists seeking to hop the 30 miles from Alaska to Siberia for research purposes will no longer have to detour via Moscow.

The US has proposed an existing 2.8 million-acre nature preserve as its contribution to the "Arctic Park", and

the Russians intend to match that. Each country would supervise its half, but there would be regular meetings of the park managers and they would establish a joint "centre for research and public information".

Announcing that they had accepted the recommendation



of the joint feasibility study, Mr Manuel Lujan, the US Secretary of the Interior, and Mr V.G. Sokolovsky, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Protection of the Environment, said they wanted the park established in the near future.

Legislation will be required

in both countries, but the US National Parks Service is hoping that what it calls "glacier into glaciers" will become reality by 1991.

The effect of the park will be to erode the artificial twentieth-century division of two regions, whose links date back to the existence of an Ice Age land bridge.

Even when that was covered by the sea, said the feasibility study, "common life in Beringia continued without interruption for thousands of years. Even under the flag of the Russian Empire, and later during American and Russian commercial whaling periods, people, ideas and goods moved across the sea."

But the flow of culture and ideas, which could not be stemmed by the submergence of the land bridge, was disrupted by the tide of politics.

There have been recent signs of rapprochement. Visa restrictions have been relaxed for Alaskan and Siberian natives wishing to visit relatives. Bering Air has begun charter flights between Nome in Alaska and the Siberian city of Provideniya.

January 11 1990

PARLIAMENT

Pay deals worrying Thatcher

After the unions' rejection of the 10.2 per cent Ford pay offer, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said MPs at question time that the movement of wage costs was very disturbing. Jobs were at risk, she said, quoting figures showing better containment of wage costs by Britain's main competitors.

Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) had said that "irresponsible" wage claims unrelated to productivity would, if granted, lead to higher inflation, the erosion in value of savings and the destruction of jobs.

Labour MPs: What about the free market?

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Marshall was right. "If our wage costs rise faster than those of our competitors, our competitors will get the orders and the jobs. The movement of wage costs is very disturbing."

The last available figures, in the second quarter of last year, showed that UK wage costs were up by 6 per cent.

In the United States, they were up by 2 per cent and, in West Germany, by 1 per cent. They were down in Japan by 1 per cent, in France by 3 per cent and in The Netherlands by 4 per cent.

"That means that those concerned

with getting orders and jobs here must have a very careful look to keep wage costs down."

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Would she tell us how far she is prepared to blame herself and her Government's policy for the rate of inflation?

Mrs Thatcher: We have made it quite clear that there was too much money in the system for the output that we were having and, therefore, that steps have to be taken to correct it and are being taken.

She said that the present rate of inflation—at 7.5 or 7.7 per cent—was, for the last Labour Government, so low that they had ambitions to get down to it.

Mr Kinnock: When it is the Government's deliberate policy to keep mortgage rates and interest rates very high, to increase electricity and fares and also to impose, very shortly, both the business rate and the poll tax, is not the Director General of the CBI (Mr John Banham) absolutely right to say that inflation is the fault of the Government? (Loud Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: No. Inflation happens when we have too much money in the system. (Loud Labour cheers) It means that we are taking more out in

PRIME MINISTER

money than we are putting in in output.

That has to be corrected by two means. One, by interest rates and, the other, by keeping a tight fiscal policy. We are doing both.

Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C): Could she comment on the rather old-fashioned attitude of some trade union leaders who have not learnt the lessons of 1979-80? Moreover, will she reject the view that increased productivity automatically justifies a pay increase, (since it may be that productivity is going up in an industry where demand is going down)?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree. The first rule is that wage increases must not outstrip productivity.

As he points out, increased productivity also comes from substantially increased investment of capital, and then there must be a return on capital, and also it could be that increased productivity causes price reductions, so that the consumer is entitled to get some reductions if they can be given.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) asked Mrs Thatcher, given her determination to defeat inflation, what she thought about the idea supported by the Governor, the deputy governor and the former deputy governor of the Bank of England that there should be placed on the Bank the statutory obligation to maintain the value of money.

Mrs Thatcher: That should remain part of the Government's duty. We have to achieve it by keeping the money supply tight.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worthing, Lab) said that if Mrs Thatcher's policy was to increase interest and mortgage rates, it was obvious that people at work would demand higher and higher wages to pay for those higher interest rates.

"Is it her view that there is now no alternative to that strategy? If it is, it means wage-demand escalation."

"Or is it," he added, "that she has some other secret policy that she is unwilling to disclose to the House, some informal incomes policy based on the threat of higher and higher unemployment?"

Mrs Thatcher: Wage costs and wage claims and their settlement are matters for industry. One would hope that they would take into account that if wage

costs price them out of the market, they price themselves out of jobs. She said that the alternative to the correct policies to deal with inflation by interest rates and tight fiscal policy was to let inflation rip.

Mr David Porter (Waverley, C): As we are still to some extent a nation of shopkeepers, and as she was brought up above the shop, as I was, what message has she for small businesses and shopkeepers worried about uniform business rates? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher said that the amount raised from business rate next year would be the same as this, plus inflation, so there would be no real increase (Labour laughter).

There had been changes the first rating revaluation since 1973, which had given rise to nearly three-quarters of the increase in rates.

"That is an object lesson to anyone who wanted to apply it to domestic rating."

There was to be a transition period of at least five years during which the increase would be no more than 20 per cent for larger businesses and no more than 15 per cent for smaller businesses. It was the first time that business would have had assurance about its rates.

Public right and ministers wrong on ambulance pay

In a democracy there were occasions when the public was right and the Government wrong, Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health, said when he opened a Commons debate on the ambulance dispute. This was one of them.

The public was right to insist that the ambulance staff deserved a fair and just award. The Government could not argue that the pay demand could not be afforded. The money needed to settle it was equal to that already spent on Army and police costs.

If the Government was prepared to split the difference on the pay award, it would cost £5 million, less than half the increase in the advertising budget this year for the Department of Health.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, said that the claim was excessive and not justified by comparison with other health service staff who had not taken industrial action.

A 1 per cent pay increase in the National Health Service meant £130 million on the annual wages bill.

Mr Cook moved a motion recognizing that the ambulance staff provided an essential emergency service with skill and courage, that there was public support for a just pay deal and pay mechanism, and calling for early government negotiations to end the four-month-old dispute.

He said the debate was about a service in crisis and that service was an emergency service. The crisis had left people lying in pain and distress longer than any civilized society should tolerate and left people in a state of collapse without the skilled treatment they needed.

Thousands of policemen and Servicemen had, in the past four months, no doubt given of their best. But if MPs were serious in appreciating what they had done, they must look to what they said about the cover they could provide.

There were many cases where the emergency service brought in to substitute for the ambulance service could not cope with the calls made on it.

Many questions could be put to Mr Clarke about the dispute but only one answer mattered: how did he see the dispute being resolved? Nothing that Mr Clarke had said showed a strategy for settling the dispute other than the unions surrendering on their total claim.

A score of settlements in the health service were above the offer to the ambulance staff. The average settlement in the public sector over the four months of the dispute had been 8.6 per cent.

They could not know what would settle the dispute until Mr Clarke or his representative got into the negotiating room.

But if that average settlement in the public sector was offered, the Secretary of State would find

'Unfair' to give in now

At Prime Minister's questions, Mrs Thatcher said that it would be unfair to the 84 per cent of NHS employees who had settled last year's wage claims at 6.5 per cent or 6.8 per cent, and had not been prepared to put patients' interests at risk, to give in now to those who refused to accept that.

Mr Ronald Davies (Caerphilly, Lab) recalled her view in a previous industrial dispute that the emergency services—police, fire and ambulance crews—should have their wages settled by a formula.

Given the obvious merit of the ambulance workers' case, the overwhelming public support for it, and the decision in the ranks of her own Government, was there any reason, except for her love of confrontation, why this dispute should not be settled on the basis of her idea of a formula?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not accept what he said in the early part of his question. Ambulance pay should be settled by national negotiation. The Clergy commission had rejected the idea that ambulance pay should be settled in relation that of police and firemen.

himself within a whisker of settling.

"I do hope he is not going to tell us that the settlement cannot be afforded because he cannot find the money. He has found the money to pay the police and the Army to do the job of the ambulance staff."

The Association of London Authorities estimated that the cost of police cover in London alone has been £3.5 million.

Figures he had obtained yesterday estimated the total cost of police time in 14 areas outside London, where the police had been active, to be £4,400,000. The cost to the Army must be £2.5 million.

"If you add together those three figures you find that the cost of this dispute in paying the

police and the Army to do the job that would be better done by paying ambulance staff to do it is £10,400,000.

"The difference between what is offered by the Secretary of State of 6.5 per cent and what is demanded by ambulance staff of 11.4 per cent is 5 per cent. Each 1 per cent on the ambulance staff pay bill is £2 million.

"It would, in short, cost £10 million to settle the claim in full. How is it that they cannot find the money to settle the dispute but they can find the same amount of money to prolong the dispute?" (Labour cheers)

Mr Clarke had a happy knack of finding the phrase to inflame tempers whenever he intervened. It defied common sense to tell ambulance crews that they were not an emergency service.

The ambulance crews who responded to the crash on the M25 knew that they were an emergency service. But they were mystified as to why Mr Clarke tried to deny it. Four out of five ambulance staff were fully qualified; they were trained in life-saving skills, many had attended more than 50 births on the kerbside, and many put themselves at risk in providing services to the victims of accidents.

What other professional drivers required such skills and took such risks under such severe stress?

Seven years ago a survey into stress suffered by ambulance-men found that many did not reach retirement age. Most took early retirement through ill health. Of the few who did make it, the average period of survival was 2.4 years.

The staff side had made a series of concessions. The only elements that remained were the pay award and a pay mechanism for future settlements. On both counts they were willing to compromise.

If the Government was prepared to split the difference on the pay award, it would cost £5 million, less than half the increase in the advertising budget this year for the Department of Health.

In an earlier debate Mr Roger Freeman, the Under Secretary of State for Health, had said that he recognized from his own constituency experience the powerful public support for the ambulance service.

"And that is the most dramatic feature of the dispute. The degree of public support... is without precedent... Consistently the ambulance staff have been beating the Secretary of State in opinion polls by a measure of eight to one."

Mr P. J. H. Jones, the Conservative Party's conference, said that the security requirements of party conferences took police officers away from the surrounding locality. His own constituency, Burnley, in Lancashire, had suffered in this way for many years at the time of Blackpool conferences, he said.

Mr Pike dismissed the argument that party conferences brought trade to a town and



Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, leaving yesterday's Cabinet meeting

"The public... is backing these polls with their money. One reason why he won't starve the ambulance workers back is because the public won't let them starve."

Mr Clarke said that the job of Secretary of State for Health was always a controversial one and in proposing reform of the NHS he had made it even more controversial.

"A better National Health Service requires an even better ambulance service."

Not enough attention had been paid to the ambulance service. It needed more staff with training in life-saving paramedical skills and they needed to be spread evenly across the country.

He had tried to say three key things during the dispute. First, the claim was excessive and not justified by comparison with

other health service staff who had not taken industrial action. Second, the management offer was fair and generous and should be accepted. Third, the industrial action was against patients and could not be justified in any essential service.

Only slightly more than one in ten ambulance staff had received full paramedical training. The whole point of his letter to his young constituent had been that the proportion of ambulance staff with paramedical training should be expanded.

That was the wish of the management of the service and Mr Duncan Nichol's offer had been based on widening the differential between paramedics and the rest to try to get a much bigger proportion with paramedical training. It was a disgrace that only eight in London had such training.

Some of the arguments of those who supported the ambulance staff were based on the proposition that if you had respect for the ambulance service's work, it followed that you supported their claim, at whatever level.

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Diseased meat 'not entering the food chain'

AGRICULTURE

Suggestions that meat from cows infected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was entering the human food chain were dismissed as "absolute nonsense" by Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, during question time.

He rejected a request by Mr Anthony Steel (South Hants, C) that the Government should review the level of compensation for farmers whose herds were infected by the disease.

"We believe that 50 per cent of the value of the animal as if it were healthy is fair compensation for an animal which is terminally ill and therefore worthless."

Mr Steel said that there were similarities between neurological wasting diseases of the human brain and BSE, and it was known that the disease in sheep was passed on to cows, although there was no evidence that it could be passed on to humans.

Why was the Government not encouraging farmers by giving them the incentive to report cows suffering from the early stages of the disease so that they would not, as was happening in North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire, reach the markets for sale?

Mr Maclean denied that was the case. "We have so many safety belts and traces on this issue that it is just not true."

Ninety-nine per cent of all infected animals were caught at the farm stage. Official was then removed, including the brain and other official which could contain BSE, from all animals. Veterinary services were doing special checks of markets.

"So there is no prospect of meat infected by BSE getting into the human food chain."

Mr Matthew Taylor (Tyne, Lib Dem) said that those assurances would not reassure producers or consumers.

The central nervous system. These officials were removed from all cows whether they have BSE or not."

Egg-test scheme 'against EC law'

AGRICULTURE

It would violate European Community law to delay egg imports for testing, Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said at question time.

He accused Dr David Clark, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, of misleading people by claiming that it could be done.

Mr Andrew Stewart (Sherwood, C) said that the methods of checking food imports provided by the Labour Party, which involved detaining food until it went bad, would be illegal under EC law.

Mr Gummer said that Dr Clark's statement that Labour would hold up food imports for testing was wholly contrary to EC law.

Dr Clark challenged Mr Gummer to deny that a clause in the EC legislation allowed him to prohibit contaminated food entering Britain if public health would be at risk.

Salmonella-contaminated eggs had been found coming into the country from The Netherlands. In the four days waiting for the test results the contaminated eggs had been sent for sale. Why were there two standards—one for British eggs and one for imports?

To Conservative cheers, Mr Gummer said that British eggs were healthier than anyone else's because Britain had tougher laws than any other EC country. Dr Clark should be assumed for misleading the people. He knew that what he had said was wholly contrary to EC law.

Mr Ian Bruce (South Dorset, C) said that much of the control of inter-EC trade was required because health regulations in the rest of the EC were not up to those of Britain. It seemed wrong that British egg farmers had taken such stringent measures to get rid of salmonella

whereas Dutch and other EC farmers did not have to.

Mr Gummer said that it was for that reason that the Government was encouraging the campaign to mark all boxes of British eggs. Almost all supermarkets would be pointing out that the eggs they sold were British and farmers would be protected from others.

The Government's response to problems of radioactivity in farm animals for human consumption after the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union in 1986 had been one of almost furtive negligence, Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said during questions.

He asked if it could be said honestly that the ministry and the public had been adequately informed during the four years since the accident at Chernobyl.

Had not the Swedes had an aerial survey within six weeks of Chernobyl? When would Britain be able to emulate its neighbours?

Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said that he did not recognize Mr Hardy's description. "No other country in the world acted as promptly or as comprehensively as the United Kingdom in taking action to protect all our food supplies."

In the House library were shelves "groaning" under the weight of the information made available to the House and to the public in ways in which had been the best of its kind.

An aerial survey had been done, but it had not yielded any more speedy information than men on the ground examining the soil.

Concern over conference police costs

By Nigel Williamson

Political Staff

The Government should pay the full costs of policing and security at party conferences, the Labour backbencher, Mr Peter Pike, said in an amendment debate last night.

At present, the additional costs are shared equally by the Home Office and the local police authority and represent a particular problem for the local authority which hosts the Gov-

ernment party's conference. Costs have risen sharply since the Grand Hotel bomb at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton in 1984.

The additional policing costs in Blackpool for the Tory conference last October totalled £1,080,000 and estimates for this year's conference, due to be held in Bournemouth, already suggest that the figure could exceed £2 million. Costs for opposition parties are far lower and security at the Labour Party

conference in Brighton last year totalled no more than an additional £400,000.

Mr Pike also expressed concern that the security requirements of party conferences took police officers away from the surrounding locality. His own constituency, Burnley, in Lancashire, had suffered in this way for many years at the time of Blackpool conferences, he said.

Mr Pike dismissed the argument that party conferences brought trade to a town and

therefore it was fair that the local authority bore a share of the costs. Blackpool would be full at that time of year anyway, and did not need party conferences to ensure the town's prosperity, he said.

The Home Office said yesterday that all local police authorities had their own special requirements, whether it was party conferences, pop concerts or football matches. There was no argument for treating conference costs differently.

Pressure grows for health service inspectors

By Sheila Gunn, Political Reporter

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, faces pressure to set up a national network of independent inspectors to check on standards and quality of health care.

The Royal College of Nursing is winning strong support from other health care bodies and MPs, including many Conservatives, for a health watchdog modelled on the national inspectors who monitor schools, pollution, water quality, gas and telephone services.

An amendment, drafted by the college, to the Government's health and community care reforms legislation is due to be debated next Tuesday during the committee stage scrutiny in the Commons.

Mr Clarke opposes the idea, but many MPs believe it would help to reassure

patients and other constituents who fear that the big National Health Service reforms will lead to lower standards.

The Secretary of State proposes that local authorities should set up independent inspection units. However, the royal college argues that it will mean councils being both "gamekeeper and poacher" as providers and users of service.

"Therefore, in order to ensure a high quality of standards of care, the college wishes to see an independent, nationally trained inspectorate, working at local level, to monitor the care that is delivered by the private, the voluntary and the public sectors."

The amendment would cover all health and social care facilities including National Health Service and private hospitals and clinics, health centres and GPs' practices

and nursing homes. The royal college's working party recommended that teams of inspectors with health or social work qualifications should be established under a national director.

The teams would:

- check that conditions of registration are met;
- make regular visits to monitor standards;
- make reports and keep records on each facility;
- give advice to managers on standards and training.

"Care standards and guidelines would not only reflect physical and environmental factors but should also aim to outline agreed standards where possible in areas such as leisure activities for residents, recreation, spiritual needs, skill mix, treatment plans, therapies, etc," the college suggests.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Environmental Protection Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Coal Industry Bill, remaining stages.

Wednesday: Debate on parliamentary pensions. Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. Private Bill: Hythe Marina Village (South-south) Waverley Bill, first and second readings.

Thursday: Motion on central government financial support for English local authorities.

Friday: Private member's motion on Opposition policies.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Food Safety Bill, committee, first day.

Tuesday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, committee, first day.

Wednesday: Debates on German reunification and on tax relief on contributions to private health insurance.

Thursday: Food Safety Bill, committee, second day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on the future of the multi-fibre arrangement.

Business questions

Rebuke for Labour MP

A complaint that Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Worthing, Lab) had made a renewed attempt today to raise allegations about the possible business connections of a minister, Mr Michael Forsyth, was made in the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said that Mr Campbell-Savours had made the fresh attempt, again in the standing committee considering the National Health Service and Community Care Bill, and had been ruled out of order by the chairman.

Was it in order for an MP to do this again when the allegations had been denied by the minister, because this was tantamount to saying that the minister was a liar?

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said he hoped that what Mr Bennett had said was not true in view of the solemn undertaking given by Mr Campbell-Savours to the House on Tuesday (this was after Mr Campbell-Savours made his first attempt to bring up the matter in the committee that morning).

That had led to the Leader of the House (Sir Geoffrey Howe) withdrawing a motion to give

the chairman of the committee power to suspend any MP at further sittings, the Speaker said.

He did not think that Mr Campbell-Savours should persist in this conduct.

Earlier, Mr Campbell-Savours, on a point of order, had asked during business questions that Mr Forsyth should make a personal statement to the House to answer the question whether, when he was no longer a minister, he intended to return to the firm of Michael Forsyth Ltd. When he did so, the matter would be finished.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said Mr Forsyth had done his best to answer the allegations made under cover of parliamentary privilege. If the matter was as important as Mr Campbell-Savours stated, he might take the opportunity to raise it outside that cover.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) said that Mr Campbell-Savours should not use the privilege of the House to indulge in McCarthyite sneers against Mr Forsyth, who had given a clear assurance there was nothing in them.

The select committee on

televising the Commons was investigating the efficiency of the microphone system in the Chamber, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said during business questions.

His remarks came immediately after Prime Minister's Questions when a number of MPs complained that they could not hear Mr Thatcher.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) told Sir Geoffrey that, although some MPs might be getting older and deaf, the acoustics in the Chamber were undoubtedly becoming considerably worse. Ministers were having some difficulty in making themselves heard. There had been a definite deterioration.

Sir Geoffrey said that he was not sure that there had been a deterioration but a number of MPs had brought the matter to his attention.

He was advised that the problem was the consequence of the antiquity of the microphone system. The televising experiment had been authorized to proceed with the existing acoustic equipment.

The committee on televising the House was looking at what should be done to modernize the acoustic equipment.

Troops leave Tiananmen Square as Chinese leadership begins talks on Hong Kong

Two held as police keep wary eye on the Peking crowd

From Seth Faison, Peking

At least two people were detained by police for disrupting the peace yesterday in Tiananmen Square, marring the full reopening of central Peking that followed the lifting of martial law.

After all but a few armed police marched out of the square early yesterday, plainclothes officers replaced them and filtered through the crowd of tourists, kite-flyers and curiosity-seekers all day.

They appeared to be under orders to prevent any show of opposition to the Government, including attempts to mourn those who were killed during the crackdown on protesters last June.

The Monument to the Revolutionary Martyrs, an obelisk in the centre of the square that served as a command post for the democracy movement last year, was cordoned off and six armed police stood guard round it.

In the morning, a university student arrived carrying large rolls of posters he wanted to display in the square. As the police began to close in, the student walked away. "Putting up the posters would be like sacrificing myself for nothing," he said. Onlookers stared silently at a notice-board proclaiming the monument out of bounds. Pasting up posters, shouting slogans, sleeping on the ground and laying wreaths in the area were forbidden, it added.

In the afternoon, witnesses saw an elderly man in a worn, blue Mao jacket carried away by plainclothes police after he shouted at soldiers: "How many people did you kill?"

"The living are dead and the dead will return," the man yelled defiantly, as police escorted him inside the Museum of Revolutionary History, where soldiers or armed police are believed to be stationed in

case of any large-scale disturbances.

Soon afterwards, in the course of an interview with a British television crew, an agitated middle-aged woman was taken away by police after she began to cry while discussing the need for China's reunification with Taiwan.

Asked why she was being detained, a policeman said she "had problems". But others in the crowd clearly got the message that they should watch their step and minimize contacts with foreign journalists.

Restrictions on journalists, which martial law technically forbade from any reporting

not approved by the authorities, were effectively lifted yesterday. "It is a return to normal," said Mr Jin Guhua, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

State television reported that the majority of Peking's residents had shown "great respect" for the lifting of martial law, and read out a lengthy justification of the original order made in the address by the Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, on Wednesday night.

At a press briefing, Mr Yuan Mu, the State Council spokesman, said a "small increase" over normal troop strength in

Peking and surrounding areas would be maintained to help Public Security officials keep social order.

From early morning, people watched workmen removing barricades to widen access to the square and lined up to have their pictures taken by professional photographers.

Shortly before noon up to 1,000 troops camped in the history museum since June marched across the square, chanting and singing military songs. They disappeared into a walled compound near the Great Hall of the People.

"I thought martial law was over," said one of the several thousand people strolling around the square as he watched the soldiers go by.

Mr Yuan denied that any of the officers in the museum were from the People's Liberation Army. "You are wrong. All the soldiers have left," he said. Mr Yuan said the timing of the lifting of martial law was not tied to any specific event but was aimed at improving the capital's mood as the lunar new year approached.

Asked if the lifting of martial law meant that the dispute over Mr Fang Lizhi, the dissident astrophysicist who took refuge in the US Embassy last year, might also be settled, Mr Yuan let the Foreign Ministry spokesman answer. Mr Jin repeated earlier statements that the Fang question required efforts from both China and the US. "The only way out" was for Mr Fang to plead guilty immediately.

Asked about the fate of Mr Zhao Ziyang, the former Communist Party leader, Mr Yuan said that Mr Zhao's case was still under investigation, and that he was living "a normal life" in Peking with his family.

(South China Morning Post)



Sir David Wilson, the Governor of Hong Kong, at a news conference in Peking yesterday with a smiling Mr Zhou Nan, China's Deputy Foreign Minister.

Stormy words darken Governor's visit

From Chris Yeung, Peking

Sir David Wilson, the Hong Kong Governor, hit the first snag in his mission to restore relations with China yesterday when he engaged in a public verbal clash with Mr Li Hong, a senior Chinese official, over anti-Peking protests in Hong Kong.

In a surprise move, Mr Li told Sir David in public that a recent pro-democracy rally in the territory would affect the normalization of Sino-Hong Kong relations.

He said there were still people in the territory causing trouble. "For instance, some people on New Year's Day chanted 'Down with the so-called Deng Xiaoping in China'."

Launching his verbal attack, Mr Li said this was more than just a small issue and did not see clear away the clouds so we can see the clear blue sky.

"I have said in Guangzhou (in November), concerning Sino-British and Sino-Hong

Kong relations, that it is time we should have a clear sky after the rain."

A serious-looking Sir David was taken aback by Mr Li's remarks. In response, he pointed to the need to "distinguish between a small shower of rain and a typhoon and not to get confused with the two".

Sir David said: "I'm not an expert on weather forecasts. But we are almost at the end of the winter and spring is coming round. We'd like to be in the period of spring weather."

Mr Li chipped in: "Small showers of rain will become typhoons if they are not given immediate attention. That is what we have to work hard to prevent - further rain."

The exchange, clearly referring to Hong Kong pro-democracy activities which China has branded as subversive, erupted during a photo call before formal talks between Mr Li and Sir David at the Disputes guesthouse.

Mr Li, deputy director of the

State Council's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, was referring to a protest march organized by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China on New Year's Day outside the New China News Agency's headquarters in Happy Valley.

More than 10,000 protesters chanted slogans such as "Down with the Censorship in China" and "Down with the Deng-Li-Yang clique".

In Hong Kong last night an organizer of the New Year's Day march, Mr Lau Chin-shik, said there was "neither heavy rain nor strong wind, but only spring showers which will nourish the land".

Mr Li's attack on the Alliance, chaired by Mr Sze Wah, the Hong Kong legislator, indicated that differences still remain over the Government's handling of pro-democracy activities in the territory.

The Hong Kong Govern-

ment has maintained that the territory has never been used as a base for subversion against China.

But Peking apparently fears that a quicker pace of democratic reforms would open the way for liberals who are closely associated with the Alliance to dominate the future Special Administrative Region Government.

The Basic Law Drafting Committee, on which China holds the majority, has tentatively confined the number of directly elected seats to the legislature in 1997 to 18, or 30 per cent of the Assembly.

Emerging from yesterday's three-hour talks with Mr Li and another Chinese official, Mr Li Ping, Sir David remained tight-lipped on whether he had put forward a more liberal political model.

He would only say: "We've had a very useful and practical discussion on a number of matters of mutual concern, including discussion on the

Basic Law and the progress in drafting."

"The discussion was held in a good atmosphere... I'd like to leave the details at the end of the series of discussions."

Mr Li, on the other hand, would only say that he had briefed Sir David on the decision and amendments made by the Basic Law Drafting Committee's sub-groups during their recent sessions.

He emphasized, however, that he believed that differences could be narrowed through dialogue.

"Over the past few years, we had been keeping constant contact which was beneficial to both sides. We hope that in the near future we can restore such close contact," said Mr Li.

Sir David agreed and said that discussions would help to re-establish a constructive dialogue to deal with practical issues facing the territory.

(South China Morning Post) Leading article, page 15

WORLD ROUNDUP

Moscow boost to Gulf peace hope

A breakthrough appeared to have been achieved yesterday in the long-running quest for a peace settlement after the Gulf War, when Iraq joined Iran in agreeing to a Soviet offer of mediation (Hizir Teimourian writes). The prospects seemed bright for a lasting peace for the first time since the two countries stopped fighting in August, 1988.

The Soviet offer was announced on Wednesday. Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the initiative had been agreed with Senior Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, and did not mean "any substitution for the UN peace efforts in the region". The indication was that the initiative had been some time in preparation and the Soviet Union believed there was a good chance of success. Talks will be held in Moscow between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers.

Row over Kashmir

Delhi - Relations between Pakistan and the new Indian Government have soured amid an angry exchange of words over escalating violence in the Kashmir Valley, most of which has been placed under a shoot-on-sight curfew (Christopher Thomas writes).

Pakistan yesterday attacked Indian "distortions" of its alleged role in fanning trouble in the valley, and warned that blaming Pakistan for what was happening was "potentially very dangerous". Earlier, Indian government officials quoted Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, as cautioning Islamabad not to support armed Kashmiri secessionists, because "such things become difficult to manage if allowed to grow".

Soviet rig in trouble

Oso (Reuter) - A gale carried a Soviet oil rig close to the Norwegian coast early yesterday and Norwegian helicopters flew 16 of the 23 crew to safety. Mr Kjell Larsen, leader of the rescue team, said four Soviet tugs were holding the Kotskaya rig steady about 1,000 yards from shore near the northern town of Vannoye. "The situation is under control," he said, adding that the remaining members of the crew "will not be evacuated unless the situation worsens".

The Kotskaya, the first Soviet rig that was intended to be used in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, was being towed by tugs from the Soviet port of Murmansk to Stavanger in western Norway when the wind and heavy seas swept it towards the coast.

Picasso works stolen

Antibes, France - Thieves have stolen 80 ceramic works by Pablo Picasso worth two million francs (£210,000) from the French Riviera workshop where the artist worked for 40 years, police said yesterday (Reuter reports). The robbers broke through a window of the workshop in Vallauris, near here, on the night of December 28-29 when the gallery was closed for the new year holiday. They carried away the 80 pieces, including decorated plates, serving dishes and pots, in a lorry, police said.

Saudis deny torture

Saudi Arabia yesterday denied that it held any political prisoners or used torture to extract confessions (Michael Knipe writes). The denial was in response to an Amnesty International report published yesterday that cited evidence of systematic human rights violations, including the use of torture, in the kingdom in recent years. The report detailed the cases of 66 detainees, one of whom died in custody. The Saudi Press Agency described it as "inaccurate, exaggerated and based on accounts that should not be believed".

Massacre inquiry

Nairobi - The Sudanese military junta has set up a committee to investigate the death last month of hundreds, possibly thousands, of southern tribespeople in central Sudan (Mari Coley writes). Diplomats say at least 600 of the Nilotic Shuluk people, including women and children, were killed by the Muslim Subha tribe in riots at El-Jebelein at the end of December. The ruling Revolutionary Council claims 214 people were killed and 38 wounded; the Sudan People's Liberation Army puts the death toll at more than 2,000.

Mayor's mouth brings him more trouble

From Susan Elliott, Washington

A sign outside the Bottom Line bar in central Washington on Wednesday said it all for critics of the city's mayor: "Surprise. The Mayor is innocent again."

It was the second day in a row that the establishment, which hangs up a newsworthy slogan each day, had focused on Mr Marion Barry and the latest controversy surrounding him as he prepares to run for a fourth term in office. "Mr Mayor," it warned, "you're getting messy with Jesse."

The week has been tough for Mr Barry, already under siege from repeated allegations of corruption and cocaine abuse. In the latest of a long series of critical profiles in the national press, *The Los Angeles Times* last weekend quoted him as ridiculing any aspirations the Rev Jesse Jackson might have to run for mayor of the city.

The reporter, who spent more than 18 hours with the mayor as he went about his duties, also quoted him as making anti-Semitic remarks and commenting on his invin-

ibility in office. Mr Barry, assailed by repeated but unproved allegations that he uses cocaine, said the article was full of "factual inaccuracies and, in some cases, blatant lies".

"Jesse don't wanna run nothing but his mouth," Mr Barry was quoted as saying in the two-page profile, and that Mr Jackson would become "the laughing stock of America" if he ran for mayor.

Musing as to why his second wife still loves him after media accounts of his alleged infidelities, Mr Barry concluded it was because he was good in bed. "I was good then. I'm even better now," the paper reported.

He was also quoted as describing as "Judas" the former fund-raiser who abandoned him and talked to the media.

"Jews too!" he is reported to have said. "Jews should be the last to spread rumours. They've been persecuted themselves. You'd think they'd know better." The remarks were interpreted as

anti-Semitic by Barry critics. The mayor told *The Los Angeles Times* in a letter that he was "shocked" when he read the profile.

The comments, Mr Barry's protests and the newspaper's defence of its article have filled national media all week and provided further ammunition for Mr Barry's polarized supporters and critics.

The editor of the respected West Coast newspaper, Mr Shelby Coffey, said he stood by the article and that the reporter taped the comments as Mr Barry sipped wine in one of his favourite city bars.

The article depicted Mr Barry as a vain and arrogant politician who, when relaxed, uses crude language and makes fun of allegations that he indulges in cocaine and chases women. In addition, it described him lecturing schoolchildren against drug use.

Mr Barry has accused the reporter, Bella Stumbo, of racism and has demanded an apology. "While I am admittedly not the best enunciator

in the world, I do not use the 'black dialect' she chose to attribute to me," he told the newspaper's editor in a letter.

Mr Jackson, who moved to the Washington district from Chicago last year, played down the reported comments and said Mr Barry assured him they were not true. Privately, however, a source of his was quoted in *The Washington Post* as saying he believed the newspaper had accurately quoted the mayor.

Mr Jackson's move raised speculation that he might run for mayor and win because Mr Barry has come under increasing criticism for the way he runs the city and for details of his private life. Mr Jackson has denied he intends to run.

Observers say that even the liberal white and poor black voters who brought Mr Barry to power have started to lose patience with him. But *The Los Angeles Times* found Mr Barry confident of his chances of re-election.

"I'll get 65 per cent of the vote, at least," the article quoted him as saying. "Isn't

anybody in this town can beat me. I'm invincible." The newspaper also quoted him as boasting of his sexual prowess and dismissing a plan to unseat him as a conspiracy among white detractors, especially the mainstream press.

"I'm gonna be like that lion the Romans had - they can keep throwin' their stuff at me you know, but I'll be kickin' their asses, every time in the end, I be sittin' there, lickin' my paws."

Stumbo, aged 46, has worked at *The Los Angeles Times* for 18 years and is renowned for her perseverance in tracking prominent figures and extracting embarrassing comments from them as they relax their public image.

A Californian official, who fell prey in 1981, explained her technique this week in *The Washington Post*. "She's an incredibly charming person. People like me and Marion Barry, with egos the size of a room, she knows how to play that. And that's your fault if you're a grown man."

Japan's old fighters come in from the jungle

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok



Peace at last: Mr Kiyooki Tanaka going home after meeting his daughter, left, in Bangkok.

Two old Japanese war veterans, who have spent most of their lives cut off from their families and the outside world, yesterday explained why they fought another war after their country surrendered to the Allies in 1945.

Emerging from their jungle stronghold in southern Thailand, Mr Kiyooki Tanaka, aged 76, and Mr Shigeyuki Hashimoto, 72, said they had done what they had been taught to do.

Speaking through interpreters, they said they ignored the Japanese surrender in 1945. "We could have gone back to Japan then, but we fought on to free Malaysia from British colonial rule," they said. They had been told that Japan began the war in the Far East to end Western domination of Asia.

Mr Hashimoto said: "I am ready to return to Japan because it is a democracy."

The two men, who kept up with world events on short-wave radios, had not been soldiers but munitions workers in a former British ironworks supplying the Japanese occupation army in Malaya.

With 20 to 30 Japanese soldiers who also refused to surrender, they joined the Communist guerrillas planning an uprising against the restored colonial government.

In the next 40 years they fought British, Australian, Thai and Malaysian forces

and are the only survivors of the original group.

Mr Tanaka said his friends in the Communist Party of Malaya "were saddened by my departure, but I have to return to Japan where I will try to do something to promote peace and prevent wars".

Both men said that, when they were too old for combat, they made ammunition and weapons in a guerrilla camp in southern Thailand. The Communists were forced into Thailand in 1959 by Field Marshal Lord Templer's anti-insurgency campaign.

Mr Tanaka and Mr Hashimoto said they thought they would die in the jungle, but five weeks ago the guerrillas signed peace treaties with Malaysia and Thailand and disbanded their army.

The men said they could not have surrendered earlier because that would have let down their guerrilla friends.

Relatives have come from Japan to meet the two old warriors. Mr Tanaka was greeted by his daughter, who was five years old when he went away. Two brothers met Mr Hashimoto, who is now confined to a wheelchair by a blood disorder.

After 45 years together the two are now to be separated. Tomorrow Mr Tanaka will go to Tokyo to live with his wife and daughter; Mr Hashimoto is to live with relatives elsewhere in Japan.

Researchers at Tokai University are working on a system whereby devices placed under the car chassis could read navigational bar codes painted on roads and flash a local map and instructions such as "20 kilometres straight ahead to Yokohama" on a screen in front of the driver.

In the famous karaoke bars, where would-be Sinatras used to leaf through a menu of songs before telling the mammy-san which soundtrack they would like to accompany, crooners can now just pass an electronic bar-code reader across the song's designated code in the selection book. The hi-fi equipment translates these requests into music. Before, the machine had to be loaded manually, which gave other patrons a respite from the waiting but delayed the debut of many new stars.

Kyoto University Hospital is using bar codes on patient charts to help centralizing management of patient records and accounts. Tokyo Disneyland uses them to track the progress of cars on its rides, ensuring there is a safe gap between them.

FRIDAY PAGE

'The moral relativism shown in satanizing Noriega seems more obscene and dangerous than his activities'

About 10 days ago I was in America watching television as a stern-looking American official took some journalists on a tour of the compound of General Manuel Noriega. "Noriega," he told the cameras, "was known to have consorted and availed himself of prostitutes." It's quite peculiar the way some people speak, like police officers who never "stop" a suspect but "apprehend" them.

Then the camera swivelled around some beige rooms, which were described as evidence of the "pretty extravagant lifestyle that we have uncovered." There was a quick shot of a rather ordinary looking bucket, said to have blood in it for satanic rites of some sort. "We uncovered pornography and a substantial amount of cocaine," the official said. I believe they mentioned a bit of Hitler memorabilia and then a screening room and videos. One could hear America shudder.

What on earth is all this about, I wondered. At the time, Noriega was on the lam, he hadn't even turned up in the Vatican Embassy.

It was true that there had been a steady drum roll in America over the past six months as Noriega went from simply being a nasty little pock-marked thug into a monster kingpin in America's drug crisis. It was rather Orwellian, watching the campaign of hate. One day he was America's ally and then, all of a sudden, his face was the one responsible for turning America's schools and ghettos into crack houses.

As dictators go, Noriega was neither the best nor the worst. But the action of the United States in invading a sovereign nation, even one hijacked by a nasty little dictator, is a dubious matter at best and required some very fast talking. The result is that Noriega has been elevated from a horrid snitch to a fully fledged devil.

In satanizing Noriega into Lucifer, the Americans chose to concentrate on the general's home-life which, to put it mildly, is vulnerable. Americans are a puritanical lot and they expect heads of state to have uncomplicated and healthy love lives. Even before Mrs Reagan's book, we all knew

that Nancy adored Ronnie. During the Carter presidency we suffered through the syrup of Jimmy, Rosalind, and their frightful daughter Amy. I heard more than I ever wanted to about how much Jerry Ford stood by Betty while her various ailments were excoriated. It turns out that President John F. Kennedy consorted with a lot of women while married, even the odd gangster's moll, but he is the exception that proves the rule.

Noriega, on the other hand, seems to have been a head of state who came complete with wife, mistress, prostitutes and a personal drug habit. Pornography, drugs and prostitutes aren't, I would venture, news among many of the death spots of the world today, never mind several million American homes. As for his alleged voodoo rituals, well, they may be irrational but then so are the sacraments of the Church of England, to put it mildly, is vulnerable. Americans are a puritanical lot and they expect heads of state to have uncomplicated and healthy love lives. Even before Mrs Reagan's book, we all knew



BARBARA AMIEL

concern in America about child abuse, I'm not sure that is sufficient reason to invade his country. As for the cocaine charges against him, drug dealing is a nasty business, but it might have been more useful to have invaded Colombia or Cuba if eliminating cocaine was the issue. For my money, the moral relativism

shown in satanizing Noriega seems more obscene and dangerous to me than his activities. As for Noriega, he was an unprotected animal. The reasons President Bush gave for his actions against him — the protection of American interests, the flouting of democracy by Noriega, his activities in the drug trade — may all be true. But when it comes to American interests, Fidel Castro is a thousand times more inimical. He has supported a world-wide terrorist industry and has most certainly been involved in drugs. But oddly, Castro's communism has kept him protected both by the power of the Soviet Union and an unholy domestic alliance in America of left-wing church groups and organizations. There was no equivalent support structure for the pock-marked little general.

Mind you, I'd find the notion of the United States invading Cuba as dubious as its action in Panama, although I don't belong to that school of thought that sees a parallel between the invasion of Panama by the United States and

that of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union. There is no parallel between a great democracy using force to save or restore a democracy and a powerful tyranny using force to save or impose a tyranny. The will of the people is the only source of political legitimacy and it follows that democracy is the only legitimate form of government. All the same, while tyrannies may not carry political legitimacy, they are still sovereign entities and other nations can't just move in and impose governments on them, even "better" or more legitimate governments.

The problem Noriega ultimately faced was that he misread the times. He thought that because he had something on America, namely his role as a little tattle-tale used by the CIA, he could act as he wished. But while America may not have been spiritually prepared to do something about people who kicked sand in its face during the post-Vietnam period, now it will attack weaklings who kick it. Meanwhile, moral relativism

reigns supreme. Was it only 11 years ago that the Queen rode through the streets of London with President Nicolae Ceausescu and his missus and then pinned a medal on his chest? It was only four years ago that Canada's prime minister, Brian Mulroney, fêted Ceausescu on a state visit and the Canadian governor-general made a speech about how "particularly honoured" Canadians were to receive Ceausescu. As it happened, that was the same week the Canadians closed the trade offices of South Africa.

The Romanians didn't need to create a demography around Ceausescu. Nor, unlike the United States' plans for the general, did they really bother with the pretence of a trial. Mad dogs are shot on sight. Putting them in the dock only tarnishes the court. "We won't stand, dear," were Elena's last recorded words. "General Noriega respectfully refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of this court," was the response of the little snitch's lawyer in Miami. President Bush should have learnt from the Romanians.

First ladies of feminism



Emily Davies (left) was fighting for the education of women long before the suffragettes made their name. Libby Purves met the writer intent on winning greater esteem for this early feminist

Daphne Bennett is slight and white-haired, and when we met she was accompanied by her husband (the retired president of Magdalen College, Oxford) and by a stout shooting-stick. "I am not disabled, but I was mugged once and I dislike being alone after dark." It would, however, be a grave mistake to think her fluffy. This is an historian with a passionate regard for original sources and a very combative streak: it was she who brought — and won — the famous lawsuit against Princess Michael of Kent for plagiarism. Now, equally implacable, she is preaching a fervent doctrine of dissent over the history of the feminist movement.

She has good cause. After Princess Victoria, Prince Albert and Margot Asquith, her

latest biographical subject is an almost forgotten heroine: Emily Davies, the founder of the first women's college, Girton. If you dare to confuse her with Emily Davison, the suffragette who threw herself under the King's horse, Bennett will scold. Quite justifiably: her Emily had, after all, been plugging away in the cause of women's liberation for 50 years before the suffragettes. What is more, Emily Davies would never have dreamed of doing anything so unconstructive as jumping under a racehorse. "She was careful never to alienate men. If men held the power, she realized she must not make them feel small."

Virtually all modern feminist writers infuriate Bennett to the point of incoherence. "Simone de Beauvoir says that feminism in England was 'very timid' until 1903 and the

Pankhursts. Timid? Nonsense! As for Germaine Greer — goodness, that woman spouts the most awful rubbish — she has carried on this stupid idea that nothing happened until those ill-advised suffragettes!" Above all, she rages at the modish idea that the women's movement began in the 1960s. "Sara Maitland wrote that it began somewhere between the death of Marilyn Monroe and that of Janis Joplin. That is an insult to earlier women, and especially to Emily."

Her quarrel with modern feminism is not only about its origins; it is qualitative, too. She greatly dislikes what she sees as an unhealthy emphasis on women's physiological characteristics, the mystical matriarchal earth-motherish ideal. "There is an ignorant neglect of minds, and of the whole issue of women's edu-



Fighting fit: Daphne Bennett dislikes today's emphasis on the mystical earth-motherish ideal

cation." For her, as for Emily Davies a century earlier, education is at the core of the whole issue.

Reading the biography, one is swept into this way of thinking. Emily Davies was born in 1830, a cleric's daughter. Her upbringing was kindly but caged: she was refused a part in her brothers' lessons. "They were going to Oxford, you see. She was to stay at home with her Mamma. Now my own mother," says Bennett parenthetically, "underwent the same sort of thing:

she was brought up by two sweet, kind uncles. She went to school but they simply couldn't swallow the idea of her going to Girton. You see, for women like this there was just no hope."

Emily Davies wrote movingly of how being cut off from education "stifles and chills". Her words about middle-class women's lives ring despairingly true down the decades, right to her biographer's own generation: "Women are not

healthy. It is a rare thing to meet with a lady who does not suffer from headaches, languor, hysteria or some illness showing a want of stamina. Dullness is not healthy... Men think dullness is calm. If they had ever tried what it is to be a young lady, they would know better." "Very true," Bennett says. "You see why I have a passion for her?"

When her father moved to Gateshead, however, Emily found an antidote to dullness. With unworshiped innocence, her mother left her to her own

'As for Germaine Greer, she has carried on this stupid idea that nothing happened until those ill-advised suffragettes!'

devices, and the 11-year-old child in the Twenties, was allowed to study at home but banned from school, lest it coarsen her. "And my stepmother, who had to support her family when her husband was wounded in the first war, was a teacher but could never be a headmistress because she was married. There were great restrictions, even then."

There is an atmosphere, a breeze blowing through the book, which is oddly familiar. Even in the late Sixties when I studied, I remember noticing odd clues that, long before our strident women's movement, there had been another age of protest. Elderly dons, remembering the triumph when lectures and full degrees were opened to women in the Twenties, had something of Emily's passion. They were often women who, like her, never married but thought it a world well lost for learning: they conveyed energy and optimism, and a post-revolutionary sense that for us girls to be there at all was still a marvellous victory.

It seems a small river to have crossed, now; but we should honour the women who built the stepping-stones. By 1869 she had founded her women's college, procur-

sor of Girton, despite warnings that it would turn out dreadful, mannish creatures devoid of the "privacy and clinging for protection... the full ripening of the precious qualities of womanhood", as Dr Dyke Acland put it. George Eliot summoned her with a vague offer of help, but hoped that examinations for girls would not be compulsory, because a woman's constitution would not stand the strain. But Girton was founded, and the rest is history.

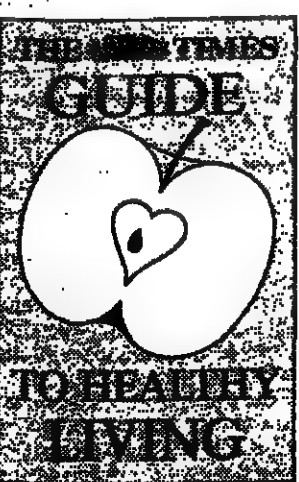
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© Emily Davies and the Liberation of Women is published by Andre Deutsch (£15.95).

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Woodland creatures

If you go down to the woods today, will you be able to identify those which come under the careful protection of the Woodland Trust? Yes, if you get hold of a copy of *A Guide to Woodland Trust Properties*, its newly published directory, which features maps, photographs and brief listings of more than 380 woods, ranging from sites of less than one acre to 300 acres. The guide is issued free to members of the trust, which has so far raised more than £10 million for conservation and now acquires, on average, one new woodland area every week. For membership details, contact the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincs NG31 6LL.

Ice of life

Alas, due to EC ice-cream quotas, sweet-toothed conservationists in this country will not yet be able to enjoy an American ice-cream that is also helping to save the rain forests. Ben & Jerry, an ice-cream maker in Vermont, has just added a variety called Rainforest Crunch to its range: it features brazil nuts (taken from the wild) and cashews (harvested in areas being re-forested after they were stripped for cattle grazing). The project is intended to encourage the Brazilians to preserve the rain forest by proving that it can be economically viable as it is.

ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

I spy nitrates

A new book by Nigel Dudley, the environmental writer and researcher, called *Nitrates — the Threat to Food and Water* (Green Print, £4.99), is the first comprehensive guide to nitrate pollution: how and why it occurs, the ecological implications of the build-up of nitrates in food and drinking water, the effects on humans and nitrates' contribution to the greenhouse effect. It also lists practical steps for readers to reduce the amount of nitrates they consume. The book is available through good bookshops, or for £5.49 (inc p&p) from Green Print, The Merlin Press, 10 Malden Road, London NW5 3HR.

Recycling ease

Interface, a Southend, Essex, charity, already collects more than 50 tons of newspapers and magazines each week, door-to-door. Now, in conjunction with Essex Radio and Shell Waste Watch, it is organizing a symposium aimed at producing a co-ordinated plan for recyclable goods. "Everyone wants to recycle their rubbish," Interface says. "But many people only get started if you make it easy."

Josephine Fairley

stephane kélian

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SPECTRUM

The race murder that wasn't

Conservative Boston has been rocked by a seemingly clear-cut case of racial violence, made all the more shocking by on-the-spot media coverage, which turned out to be something else altogether. Peter Stothard reports

The story of Charles and Carol Stuart is the most haunting event for Massachusetts since the assassination of John F. Kennedy, a popular Boston columnist wrote this week.

"The 'Stuart murder' may not sound as dramatic as the 'Boston strangler,'" commented a shop assistant on the city's fashionable Beacon Hill, "but in some ways it is worse for us." The fatal shooting of Carol Stuart 10 weeks ago has raised a storm that now rages even more fiercely than when it began. It has made this proud city appear primitive, racist and glib.

On the night of October 23 television viewers were treated to news pictures which were shocking even to those hardened to inner-city crime. A seven-months pregnant white woman was slumped in the passenger seat of a stationary Toyota car. Her dark curly hair was matted with the blood from a bullet wound. Beside her was a man, teeth gritted and chest bare, stiffened with pain from the bullet in his stomach.

Audiences simultaneously heard the just-completed telephone conversation between the wounded man, who did not appear to know where he was, and the police cars who were trying to answer his calls for help. Only by turning on and off their sirens—so that the police telephonist listening on the Toyota's car phone could judge when a police car was getting close—had the police found the scene of the crime. It was sensational broadcast news.

In the newspapers the next day Bostonians were able to read in detail how 29-year-old Charles "Chuck" Stuart, the successful manager of the city's most exclusive furrier, and his 30-year-old wife, Carol, a lawyer, had been happily driving away from their hospital's pre-natal class that night; how a black man in a baseball cap had burst into the back of their car while it waited at

traffic lights and demanded cash and Carol's rings; how the attacker had been panicked into thinking that the pair were undercover police officers and twice pulled the trigger of his .38 pistol.

The impact on public and political consciousness was instant. The mainly black Mission Hill district of Boston, near where the attack took place, was swamped with police conducting street searches until "a chosen few" suspects had been found. The top choice, a 39-year-old black criminal and gun fanatic called Eddie Bennett, had allegedly even confessed to the crime and been seen carrying jewels and a gun from the scene.

The Stuarts, meanwhile, were being canonized as "the Camelot couple" (the ultimate Kennedy analogue). According to Father Francis Gallagher, the priest who had known "Chuck" since his days as an altar boy, "they were young people with the world on a lead." Charles Stuart was now a hero. It was reported from hospital how, 17 days after the shooting, he wheeled himself painfully to the outside of his dying baby son, born prematurely by Caesarean section, but who never recovered from oxygen loss during the shooting. Carol had died soon after the birth. The smashed family was the quintessence of white middle-class values at the mercy of black ghetto crime.

Politicians plied the message for all that it might be worth. Republican leaders called for the death penalty to be restored. Democrats used the new threat to public safety as justification for a tax increase. Boston's Irish-American mayor, Raymond Flynn, believed that the publicity might help him to succeed Michael Dukakis as Massachusetts governor. Even Dukakis himself, battered during the American presidential campaign for his alleged indifference towards black-on-white crime, attended Carol's funeral at Father



Disillusion in Camelot: Charles and Carol Stuart and, inset, Eddie Bennett, wrongly suspected of the attack

Gallagher's red-brick church of St James, close to her family home. The packed congregation was read the husband's last tribute to his wife: "I miss you and I love you." Of her killer, he said that "in our souls we must forgive this sinner because he would too."

Last Thursday the same Charles Stuart was himself found dead in the Mystic River under Boston's Tobin Bridge. A suicide note, left in a new white Nissan car bought with the insurance pay-out on Carol's life, did not admit to the killing but described the strain of the police hunt. But the dead man's younger brother confessed to police. Charles Stuart, it transpired, had shot his wife in the head. Rather less efficiently he had shot himself in the stomach while aiming at his foot. His brother had been on

hand to take away the gun and the stolen jewels. The black assailant, whose identity and guilt was by now all but established in the public's mind, had never existed.

Suddenly the city shuddered through a psychological gear change. Spontaneous black protests were quickly reorganized into community demands that police apologize to the people of Mission Hill, and that financial recompense be paid to the slandered district. Mayor Flynn and his men, the protesters said, had too readily jumped to the conclusion that "a nigger pulled the trigger". The mayor, who had traditionally enjoyed good relations with the black community, was reluctant. He spluttered about how he had already "addressed the apology issue". His annual state-of-the-city message needed hasty rewriting

for delivery last night, and his gubernatorial ambitions evaporated with every new word he wrote.

The Boston media felt foolish and betrayed. They now set off determinedly to show yesterday's "Camelot husband" as today's diabolical fiend. Why, for example, had the "assailant" shot a woman in the head before shooting a man in the stomach? Why in all the immediate publicity after the shooting had Stuart not expressed worry or grief for his wife?

Friends and family members were discovered to have known about life insurance policies, although initially these were thought to be too small to explain such a crime.

To complete the now hopelessly film-like plot, a "stunning blonde" girlfriend was discovered, a figure

'The smashed family was the quintessence of white middle-class values at the mercy of black ghetto crime. Politicians plied the message for all that it might be worth. Republican leaders called for the death penalty to be restored'

skater and top university graduate who had sometimes worked with Stuart at the fashionable Kakas fur shop. In addition to buying the new white car, he had used the first part of the insurance money to pay \$800 for a gold brooch and chain.

For Father Gallagher, standing among the red candles of the church in which he had married and buried Carol Stuart, this was "pure evil". "I've been a priest for more than 40 years," he said. "I've seen a lot but I know now that anyone who thinks they've seen everything is a fool."

The story of the murder soon became two very different inquiries. The first was a very visibly determined police hunt. Out in the ice-strewn sea marshes of Boston's inner suburbia, divers searched for the gun and, after six days struggling against the fierce tidal flow, found the famous .38 pistol by the so-called "Dizzy" railway bridge from which the younger Stuart brother had hurled it.

A few—but socially important—miles away, in the smart outer suburb of Reading to which the Stuarts had moved after their marriage, police questioned neighbours around the slate-blue clapboard house. A Christmas wreath of blue teddybears was still on the front door. Inside, evidence of more insurance policies was found.

At Kakas Furs, in the sickly atmosphere of scented floor polish and stuffed animal trophies, the owners had to explain when they had noticed that the office gun was missing from the office safe. It had been kept unused for 10 years, they said, and Charles Stuart had the key.

But, as the police case began to clear, the second line of inquiry, the self-examination carried out by the people of Boston, continued all the stronger.

This is a proudly secretive city in a state whose law, unlike many other states, does not force family

members to inform upon each other's crimes. How had that encouraged the almost successful plot?

The city of the Kennedys has a specific history of racial tension entwined with its politics. The ultra-liberal policies for which Massachusetts is often ridiculed throughout the nation are a relatively recent arrival. Beneath the Democratic party surface is the still strong, clannish, Irish-American sense of self-help and beggary-neighbour.

Had the media shown their own prejudice? Most denied it. Had they simply "put scepticism on the shelf"? The *Boston Globe* said it felt "duped".

What seems certain was the role of the television cameras. By happening to be in the position to film the murder scene they had raised awareness of the story and, more importantly, etched a particular version of it on the public mind. The film became a movie—and popular movies need neat endings if the audience is not to feel cheated.

The most likely true end to this story is now the most simple. Along with life insurance policies worth almost \$700,000, books about starting a restaurant business have been discovered at the Stuart home.

Like the central figure in Theodore Dreiser's novel, *An American Tragedy*, Charles Stuart wanted to better himself in life and was prepared to kill his pregnant wife in order to do so.

But the questions will not stop yet. Father Gallagher has asked his congregation if "for just one day" they will forbear to speculate about the Stuart case. With "Chuck and Carol" book contracts piling up in New York and Boston, and election campaigns running till the autumn, even that seems a vain hope.

A fight to be equal

David Blankett, the blind Member of Parliament, was, in his own words, "an angry youngster who wanted to change the world", by the age of 16. His father had been dead for four years—the victim of an explosion at work—and Blankett had been at a boarding school for the blind.

In an interview with Ray Connolly in *The Times* tomorrow, Blankett explains that at school he

became a stirrer for good causes and led a delegation about the quality of the meals. It was the beginning of a pig-headed refusal to take No for an answer, to prove that he could be on equal terms with everyone else.

"I didn't want to be better than anyone else, just equal. And I wanted to show my mother that I could do it, that I could achieve and that I could do something to help and look after her."

"I wasn't sure whether I would succeed, didn't know what was going to happen to me or whether I was going to be able to look after myself."

Blankett's story from childhood to Parliament is told in *The Times* Review section tomorrow.

Africa's lion in waiting

Nicholas Bethell reports on a rare meeting with Nelson Mandela, symbol of the struggle against apartheid



Sickly and 71: an artist's impression of how Mandela looks today

I met Nelson Mandela in Pollsmoor prison, near Cape Town, five years ago. I remember waiting for him, surrounded by men in khaki uniforms with gold stars on their shoulder tabs. I could not understand a word they said, as they spoke Afrikaans. But I could sense their expectation in their hushed voices and nervous behaviour, as if a ceremony was about to start.

Then suddenly Mandela was there, a man about 6 ft tall, his hair silvery slightly at the sides, young-looking for his age, in neatly pressed shirt and trousers, carrying a clipboard and paper for his notes.

The guards moved to one side as he entered the room, as if deferring to a more senior officer. It was a moment that set the tone for the next three hours. Mandela was a prisoner, but very much the host and the man in charge. I was a guest in his home and the white South African's indoor staff.

It was exactly five years ago and Mandela was a sprightly 66, before his prostate trouble and his tuberculosis. It was his third year in Pollsmoor, after his transfer from the infamous camp on Robben Island, a few miles out into Table Bay, where he had spent the early years of his detention in very harsh conditions, working in the lime quarry.

On the island he and the other "security prisoners" worked from 7 am to 4 pm in the quarry, wearing only shirt, shorts and sandals, with no socks or underwear. It was cold in the winter and the food was inadequate. They were driven on by the guards and anyone "slacking" was put into solitary confinement.

Conditions improved in the mid-Seventies. Mandela was allowed to study and, eventually, he was excused hard labour. The Red Cross gained access to him. By the time I met him, he was being kept in reasonable conditions, with five other African National Congress men in a large cell facing on to a courtyard where he could play table-tennis and grow vegetables in large pots. They had books, magazines and a radio that could only receive South African stations.

I found no trace of bitterness in the man, only a determination to rise above his quarter-century loss of freedom, or maybe to use it to illustrate and intensify his struggle against apartheid. Furthermore, although he was fighting fiercely enough, his ideas for South Africa's future were moderate, far more conciliatory than the mainstream ANC demand for an immediate election to a unitary government.

He wanted not to transfer power, but to share it. "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, those in South Africa

belong here," he said. "This is their home. We want them to live here with us and share power with us." He paid tribute to the whites who had built South Africa's prosperity, and proposed evolutionary change, rather than sudden disruption.

The ANC leaders are a disparate group. Some, like Oliver Tambo, are Christians. But many others are Stalinists of the pre-Gorbachev era who encourage attacks on whites in their own homes and the victory by "the flames of revolution". Mandela eschewed such fiery rhetoric, favouring talks with all South African groups, even Chief Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha movement, which the ANC has denounced as a quisling for its relationship with the South African government.

Even in 1964, charged with treason and on trial for his life, Mandela spoke with statesmanship, not as the terrorist fanatic that Pretoria has portrayed him to be all these decades. Mandela told the court how in 1960-61, after the Sharpeville massacre and South Africa's decision to declare itself a republic, blacks found themselves forced to ask the question: "What do we do now?" They could yield to the government's violence, or they could fight.

He admitted to having planned a campaign of sabotage against electricity and water installations, and to organizing explosions in Johannesburg and Durban in December 1961. One saboteur had been accidentally killed. There had been no white casualties. At that stage the ANC's armed struggle was aimed at property.

"I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any love of violence," he said at his trial. "I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the situation that had arisen after many years of tyranny, exploitation and oppression of my people by the whites."

He maintained his support for armed struggle, but within stricter limits than those practised by the ANC's fighters. For instance, he expressed regret for the May 1983 bomb explosion which killed 17 people, including 12 civilians, in Pretoria. "We aim for buildings or property," he said. "It may be that someone is killed in a fight, in the heat of battle. But we do not believe in assassinations."

Unlike his wife Winnie, he has never supported the "necklace" killings of blacks alleged to have worked for the government, often as minor local officials in the townships. An assassination would only be justified, he told me, in the case of an informer who was actually endangering the lives of ANC fighters.

In 1985 President Botha offered to release Mandela on condition that he renounced violence. Mandela made it clear to me that he was prepared to recommend a ceasefire as soon as the government legitimized the ANC and opened talks with it. But there was violence on the government's side too, he said, and he would not humiliate the ANC by asking it to lay down its arms unilaterally. And, that being the case, he could not break with the ANC by

renouncing the struggle himself. He is, after all, the ANC's president.

He has moved away from the communist sympathies he held 30 years ago. "I am a socialist and I believe in a classless society," he told me. "But I see no reason to belong to any political party at the moment. Businessmen and farmers, white or black, can also join our movement to fight racial discrimination. It would be a blunder to narrow the movement."

He added: "Britain has helped us, under Mrs Thatcher as well as under socialist governments, by condemning apartheid on principle. We may have different ideas about the methods that should be used, but the most important thing is to condemn apartheid outright."

After our talk, I was taken to see Mandela's communal cell. We walked in slow procession up flights of stairs and round corners, with Mandela leading the way as if showing me round his home. I met his five cellmates. One of them was Walter Sisulu, Mandela's co-defendant in 1964, who was himself released last year. They mentioned a few problems. There was a damp patch on one wall. The letters they received were being censored, words and whole sentences cut out of the paper with scissors. One letter looked as if it had been through a shredder.

"Are there any other complaints? No one wants to go home?" Mandela said jokingly to his friends as we got ready to leave the cell. We walked out across the yard to a metal door in the wall. "Well, this is my frontier," he said. I shook his hand, promised to write and walked out into the bright Cape sunshine.

I have written regularly these past five years, and I know that some letters at least have reached him. He has written back several times. I am told, but no letter has arrived. According to H.J. Coetsee, South Africa's minister of justice, letters from security prisoners "are sometimes subject to delay". I have been told by a senior South African official that the letters, one dating from 1985, are at last on their way.

Helen Suzman, the recently retired liberal South African politician, once described Mandela as "our country's only hope". That hope is still true. But he will be 72 in July. He has had illnesses and operations since I saw him. I have a terrible fear that the South African government has, as usual, left things far too late.

Lord Bethell is a member of the European Parliament's Human Rights Committee.

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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Journalists ringing the Northern Ireland Office are to be spared the shock of hearing a Government press officer announce himself as Ian Paisley. The 23-year-old graduate, who shares the name with his father, the irrepresible MP for Antrim North, has had his job application turned down by senior civil servants. But, in an equally unlikely move, Paisley junior has landed a job as a journalist on *The Irish Press*, the paper founded by Eamon de Valera who, as the father of the Irish Republic, is not a name widely revered in the Paisley household.

In an even worse blow to family honour, Paisley's first assignment is a 1,000-word article on the 12 things he most likes about Dublin. The only small consolation for Paisley senior is that his errand son could only come up with six.

Following last week's report from the Independent analysts, Public Policy Consultants, which found that Labour's policies would impose huge burdens on business, I learn that the shadow chancellor, John Smith, has pulled out of a seminar organized by PPC and *Business Magazine* to give Labour the opportunity to explain its policies to a selected group of 130 leading businessmen.

But, Smith tells me, the problem is merely one of diary dates and should not be taken to imply that Labour is in any way shy of explaining its policies to the business community; in fact, says Smith, he already spends huge amounts of his time in boardrooms and at City dining tables explaining how a Labour government would get manufacturing industry on its feet again.

Bruce Kent of the CND, who embarrassed Neil Kinnock by successfully moving a resolution calling for huge defence cuts at last year's party conference, will not, it seems, be causing further embarrassment by joining the Labour benches in the Commons. Kent tells me that he has turned down invitations to stand for Labour in two London marginal seats, Hornsey and Putney, and says "the best contribution I can make to disarmament is to continue working for CND".

BARRY FANTONI



"Probably they only noticed it was missing when it came to paying for lunch."

If you spot the Conservative backbencher Michael Mates on television looking thoughtful during Prime Minister's Questions, don't imagine he is pondering Mrs Thatcher's words of wisdom; it is much more likely that he is wrestling with the cryptic intricacies of seven across or 10 down. Last week he fulfilled one of his life's two remaining ambitions by winning *The Times* weekly prize crossword competition. Mates tells me that he submits about 45 entries a year, and has been doing so for years, but that this is the first time his name has been picked out of the hat. His remaining ambition, by the way, is to appear on *Desert Island Discs*.

One who has already made it on to *Desert Island Discs* is Labour's Dennis Skinner, whose performance on the programme last weekend was one for connoisseurs to savour. Skinner, who turns down invitations to appear on the likes of *Wogan* on the grounds that it is "gimmicky", accepted Sue Lawley's invitation as the opportunity to make serious political points in an entertaining way.

His choice included non-political songs from Barbra Streisand, Al Jolson and Stevie Wonder, and a Frankie Laine number which Skinner himself used to sing as an amateur crooner on the Derbyshire pub and club circuit. But politics reappeared in a song called *Daddy, What Did You Do In The Strike?*, recorded by Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger as a tribute to Arthur Scargill and the miners during their year-long dispute.

The usually comprehensive BBC record library said it did not have the record, the first line of which runs "It was in the year of 1984 when the s*** hit the fan". But Skinner is not a man to be deterred so easily; he provided his own copy. The repeat of the programme, incidentally, for readers who want to hear the ditty, is on Radio 4 this morning.

The trouble with straws in the wind is that anyone spotting a percentage in gleaming them might well end up with enough to make a brick. And a brick in the wind is, as any metaphorician will tell you, a very different kettle of fish.

As I write this, I have before me a heart-warming photograph of a woman with a telephone in her hand, and a little girl on her knee. The woman is smiling, and the child is waving. An ordinary enough maternalistic vignette you will say, provided you can summon the requisite pomposity, but that is because you do not know the half of it. The half of it is that this winsome snapshot is not ordinary at all; it is, in fact, the photograph of a video-telephone screen, and the other half of it, therefore, is that, somewhere, on another video-telephone screen to which this one is connected, there will be a complementary

Gorbachov in Vilnius is like Lenin at the Finland Station, only in reverse. Lenin at the Finland Station, 72 years ago, represented the arrival of communist power in the Russian Empire. Gorbachov in Vilnius represents the departure of communist power from the same empire.

The mere fact that Mikhail Gorbachov is in Vilnius at all speaks volumes, given the circumstances. The General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is in Vilnius to reason — or to plead — with what he still regards as the Lithuanian section of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. That section, at the end of last month, issued a unilateral declaration of independence, proclaiming itself the Communist Party of Lithuania. This step does not just herald secession, as some reports suggest. It is secession. The power structure in the Soviet Union — now fast crumbling, but the only power-structure — is the Communist Party. So when the party in Lithuania set up on its own, it was taking Lithuania out of the Soviet Union.

Gorbachov has allowed it to be known that he rules out the use of force to keep Lithuania in the Soviet Union. To rule out force, in the circumstances, is to

accept secession. In that context Gorbachov's visit to Lithuania seems incongruous: rather as if President Lincoln after Fort Sumter had gone to the state house in Charleston to address the legislature of South Carolina. It is assumed that Gorbachov expects his Lithuanian comrades to help him save face. If so, he must be a desperate man. No doubt the Lithuanian comrades would like to help Gorbachov, if only for fear of finding something worse in power in Moscow. But that consideration must necessarily give way, in the context of Lithuanian secession, to local considerations.

Putting it more brutally, the Lithuanian comrades will be thinking of their own skins, not Gorbachov's. They are at present basking in unusual — and probably ephemeral — popularity, precisely as a result of their party's secession from the Soviet Communist Party. If the Lithuanian comrades made significant concessions to Gorbachov, they would be throwing away their

new-found popularity, and ensuring that Sajudis — the Lithuanian nationalist movement — wins by a landslide in the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, due on February 24. (Presumably the successful Sajudis candidates will not take their seats, but will interpret their victories as elections to an independent Lithuanian parliament. There is an Irish precedent: Sinn Féin candidates for Irish seats in the United Kingdom elections of 1918 did not take their seats at Westminster but set up Dáil Éireann.) The Lithuanian comrades are unlikely to sacrifice themselves for Gorbachov, and Gorbachov is therefore unlikely to bring back any substantial concession from Vilnius to Moscow.

I believe that the disintegration of the Soviet Union is now irreversible and that its pace is likely to increase after Gorbachov's return from Vilnius. I agree with "Z", the author of the important article in *Deedalus*,

an excerpt from which was published on this page yesterday, that Soviet communism is unsalvageable. I am puzzled, however, by the author's apparent assumption that the Soviet Union will pass from communism to capitalism in one piece, albeit with great difficulty. I strongly dissent from the romantic metaphor of the conclusion (to the excerpt published): "The Soviet world's transition to normality will be a long time coming. The party, though now dyed with the hues of *glasnost* and democratization, will cling to the bitter end, like some poisoned tunic, around the bodies of nations it has enfolded in its embrace for so many decades."

What is wrong with that metaphor is the characteristically American assumption that all the poison comes from communism. In reality the bodies of nations beginning to break away from the Soviet world have plenty of poison in them anyway. It was not from Marx, or Lenin that Bulgarians learned to

hate Turks; Romanians, Hungarians; Georgians, Ossetians; Azeris, Armenians, and vice versa in all cases. Nor was it from Marx and Lenin that Muslims and Christians, or Orthodox and Catholics, learned to hate one another.

With certain major exceptions — mainly in Stalin's last years — the Soviet system, and the Marxist-Leninist ideology which served it as a means of communication and as a discipline, effectively discouraged the expression of national, ethnic and religious animosities, even anti-religious animosity has been discouraged for many years. *Glasnost*, by allowing political nationalism to find its voice, blew the Soviet Union apart.

For some, but not all, of those in the process of ceasing to be Soviet citizens, this is a happy outcome. The Baltic republics seem likely to become working democracies and, in due course, members of the European Community. The future of the rest of the Soviet Union is much

more doubtful. The disintegration is bound to be an untidy, painful process. In each potentially independent republic there are substantial ethnic minorities — like the Armenians in Azerbaijan, or indeed the Russians in Lithuania. These are likely to emigrate or be forced out, bloodily in some cases. As the process develops, nationalist passions will rise, often accompanied by religious acrimony. Intolerant right-wing parties will find conditions favourable to them, not least in Russia itself. Stable democracies are quite unlikely anywhere to the south and east of the Baltic republics, within the Soviet Union.

The 1990s will see, in Europe, a situation more like the 1890s than most of the 20th century. A united and mighty Germany will be looking eastward into a vast zone of instability, but also of opportunity, mainly economic, but political also. Already last week a headline in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* read "Russia's Germany will no longer be ignored". We are likely to hear more along those lines.

Contemplating those prospects, with their explosive possibilities, I could wish that Gorbachov succeeds in his mission in Vilnius, and begins to check the disintegrating processes. But I fear that is most unlikely.

Bernard Levin on a curious case that is having trouble emerging from a Scotland Yard pending file

Justice under a blue cloud

Let us make ourselves comfortable. No tight clothing, a favourite armchair, perhaps a drink in hand. The cat may be curled up nearby. Music? Yes, but nothing too grave; possibly one or two of the unaccompanied cello suites of Bach. Lights not too bright, but nothing that could be called gloomy. Above all, we must be relaxed.

Right, then; the scene is set. In this peaceful mood, so conducive to musing upon fate and similar subjects, let us summon up a sense of wonder, even of awe, and contemplate the life, career and future of Police Constable David Judd.

PC Judd recently figured in a remarkable case; it was remarkable for several reasons, each of which I shall touch upon. The first is that he has established a new record for damages awarded against the police, and he did not merely smash the record — he doubled it. The previous highest figure anywhere in this country for damages against police malfeasance was £50,000; Judd has upped it to exactly twice as much — a full hundred grand. (You may be tempted to say that such a record will never be surpassed. Don't be so sure.)

His present record is not only large, but dramatic. The huge sum was paid to a Mr Rupert Taylor, a gentleman of — ahem — colour. PC Judd had arrested him in Notting Hill — it is not clear why — and at the station our neighbourhood bobby had him strip-searched and subjected him to verbal abuse, though not physical assault (*ah, monsieur,*

quelle délicatesse!). Then he produced some cannabis, announced that it was Mr Taylor's, and booked him for possessing illegal drugs.

Alas, Mr Taylor turned out to be a non-smoking, teetotal, lay-preacher BBC engineer on his way to play dominoes with a friend; a man quite uncannily unlikely to be in the habit of rolling a joint. He was, understandably, acquitted when his case came up, and he then brought a suit against the Met. The result was £10,000 for wrongful arrest, £20,000 for malicious prosecution, and £70,000 as exemplary damages to mark the gravity of PC Judd's behaviour.

So far, so good; replenish your drink and give the cat another sardine, and we shall continue. It now transpires that only a week before the Taylor judgment a more modest sum (£3,500) by way of damages, for a very similar action, was awarded to a Mr Lee. On this occasion, no fewer than four officers were involved, but you will be interested to hear that PC Judd was one of them. (I can find no information about Mr Lee's trade; perhaps he was a distinguished brain surgeon, or the captain of a lifeboat.)

Now it gets even more interesting. On the Notting Hill beat there have been a series of cases, over a number of years, involving prosecutions for possessing drugs which have ended in acquittal of the person charged. That is, a jury has

decided that the accused did not have in their possession the drugs that were said by the police to have been found on them; rack my brain as I will, I cannot understand, then, how the cannabis got into their pockets. (It can't, for instance, have fallen off a lorry.) Incidentally, at the time of this writing, PC Judd had not yet been suspended, nor had it been decided whether disciplinary proceedings were to be taken against him, though more than a month has passed since the case, with its damages, ended.

Well, well, well, well. Just as Mr Taylor was getting his damages (you can buy a lot of dominoes for £100,000), it was announced that Mr Geoffrey Dear, until now Chief Constable of the West Midlands, is to join the Inspectorate of Constabulary, in an impressively high position; his remit is to improve public relations and the quality of the service of the police, not necessarily in that order. Mr Dear, you may recall, was the chief constable who recently felt obliged to disband his Serious Crime Squad, some members of which appeared to have quite misunderstood the meaning of their unit's name, being convinced that their job was to commit serious crimes.

Led us go back to the damages awarded to our hero's cleaning victim. He had not been beaten, and it is very unlikely that a man of his quality would have lost the respect accorded to him by his friends, colleagues and neighbours, merely for being prosecuted but acquitted. In



other words, the £100,000 award was, and was intended to be, not just compensatory, but salutary.

There is an analogy here, and few will fail to spot it. Some of the huge damages awarded in recent libel actions against newspapers have clearly been given not so much against the defendants, for damage to their reputation, but as a general condemnation of the Press in general and the tabloids in particular. *Crime ab uno, discit omnes.*

Press the analogy; juries are convinced that all the news-

papers are rotten, dishonest and full of lies, which is plainly nonsense. But that belief, however unfair, should make newspapers seek urgent ways of correcting the false impression, before it becomes so deep-rooted that it can never be erased.

And something like that seems to be happening to the police. It is no use their parroting the old excuse: it's only a few rotten apples in the barrel. The public is rapidly becoming convinced — though unjustly — that the barrel is filled with rotten ones. And so far from it being assured that the

hunt for the rotten ones, be they many or few, is being pursued with due diligence, it sees Scotland Yard flapping a limp hand when asked whether PC Judd is to be subject to disciplinary proceedings, and declaring that it is too soon to say.

Because here is where the analogy breaks down. It would be a pity if the public continued to believe that every newspaper was as bad as the worst, but a pity cannot damage the fabric of our society. If the public is convinced that the police as a whole are corrupt and crooked, and cannot be disabused of that conviction, then we are in very serious trouble. For when the scent from the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad mingles with that from Notting Hill, it will take a great deal more than a public relations exercise to make the result smell like jasmine.

Of course there must be safeguards to ensure justice for officers accused or under suspicion; disciplinary proceedings are a parallel to a trial. But there is no possible excuse for the failure of his superiors, the instant Mr Taylor's award was announced in the court, to make a statement declaring that PC Judd was suspended from all duties until the appropriate tribunal was set up; and that public declaration, should have been combined with a private message to PC Judd that he may have missed his vocation, and if he wished to resign from the force immediately, no obstacle would be put in his way.

If the public's confidence in the police is lost, I cannot see how it can be regained. And if it is not regained, the damage to our entire way of life would be immense, so vital is the need for a force which can be relied upon; by which I mean one that does not contain officers whose actions lead to a court case costing the Met £10,000 for wrongful arrest, £20,000 for malicious prosecution, and £70,000 as a mark of disapproval of the police, in general.

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Salman Rushdie and the short arm of the law

Robert Kilroy-Silk asks the DPP to take action on Muslim threats

Why is the Director of Public Prosecutions taking so long to decide whether to prosecute those Muslims who have called publicly for Salman Rushdie to be murdered? What can he be afraid of?

It has been more than three months since Dr Kalim Siddiqui called for Rushdie's death at a meeting in Manchester. Others, many others, have made the demand before and since. Only last month, the priest of the Jamia Mosque in Birmingham said: "Islamic law says he should be killed. I agree with that."

There is, then, no doubt about where many Muslims stand on the issue. The question is whether such demands constitute a criminal offence. The burden of the demands is such that the DPP should at least look seriously at what has been said.

Section 4 of the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act, as amended by section 5 (10) of the Criminal Law Act, 1977, says in effect that whosoever shall solicit, encourage, persuade or

endeavour to persuade, or shall propose to any person he murder any other person, whether he be a subject of Her Majesty or not... shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, being convicted, they shall be liable to imprisonment for life.

My dictionary defines "solicit" as to "provoke, to stir up to action". Whatever weasel words some fanatics now employ in order to retain their reputation as militant Muslims while escaping the full consequences of English law, there can be no doubt about the fact that they want Rushdie dead. They have also "provoked" and "stirred up" others to take the same view.

There have been frequent and repeated calls for Rushdie's death at large, emotion-racked and sometimes riotous public meetings of Muslims in this country. Many have been attended by the young and impressionable, and it would be

surprising if at least some had not been provoked or stirred up by the inflammatory language to which they had been exposed.

The placards proudly carried through British streets screaming "Kill Kill Kill" demonstrate the effects of such provocation. So does the statement of 14-year-old Mohammed Omi, who stepped out of the meeting at the Jamia Mosque last month to announce that: "He should be killed, but I'm not old enough to do it. When I'm 20 or 21 I would kill him." This boy has obviously been provoked and stirred up by the ranting of the mullahs.

But that is not surprising. It would be amazing if they did not feel like that after the editors of the Muslim faith asserted that Rushdie had gravely insulted Islam and that the shur could be removed only by his death. It would not be surprising if, after the frenzy that has been whipped up, some would be hero, a

hothead, a dimwit, attempted to take the law into his own hands. He would know that whatever the British law might say or do, he would be thought a hero, a historic figure, a person to be applauded by his co-religionists.

Since the provocation, stirring up, persuasion and encouragement of such men into this way of thinking is an offence, those causing the provocation must be charged. There can be no equivocation and no backing down. It is far too important to allow any room for cringing, wringing of hands or compromise. There can be no place here for appeasement.

The campaign against Salman Rushdie that is being waged by some Muslims, with its intimidation and intolerance, is nasty and offensive. It has not been sufficiently vigorously opposed by those who believe in — and depend upon — the maintenance of decent civilized values. It has

even been given an air of respectability and justification by the craven attitude of some of the feeble members of the Labour Party.

The result is that many Muslims now feel not only that the politics of the mob, of bullying and intimidation, are acceptable, but that they are effective. They feel that they can act with impunity, that they can win. It may be that they can. There seem to be so many cowards in the ranks of those who should be defending free speech and the rule of law that the Muslim fundamentalists can trample over both without difficulty.

This must not be allowed to continue. The most minor traffic offender, the petty thief, even the litter bug, is, quite rightly, subject to the law and hauled before the courts. Those who knowingly incite others to consider committing murder should be treated in the same way.

There may, it is true, be some consequences for race relations. These will have to be faced. We cannot pick and choose which laws to apply. We certainly cannot play the game of turning a blind eye to the law when its application is considered to be offensive to a particular group. If we do, there will be no rule of law at all. The non-enforcement will be a signal of weakness, a sign that the government and law officers have no guts and lack the courage to defend the rule of law. If we cannot defend the rule of law, what can we be trusted with? Failure to act now would be tacitly to condone a campaign for the death of a writer. If that is allowed, then other lesser forms of intimidation will also be thought permissible.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has the opportunity to call a halt to this slide now. He must take it. If he does not, then he will share responsibility for the consequences. Let us hope that these will not include Salman Rushdie's death.

Faltering at the last interface



ALAN COREN

A few years ahead, the scenario will be immeasurably ghastlier. Yesterday I rang Taurus — as yet invisibly, so that when the chap said video-phones were really catching on fast, I could not tell

whether or not he was looking me square in the eye. But I give him the benefit of the doubt, because I know that my doubt has always ended up as somebody's benefit.

All I have to do is to say: "Desktop computers, don't make me laugh!" or "People walking around with stereos on their heads, pull this one!" for the Nikkei average to leap 1,000 points.

Thus, though it now costs £994.75 to buy two video-telephones able to transmit talking pictures to each other, and though very few people have them, very soon it will cost £11.99, and everyone will have them.

"Why is this Luddite dingbat

railing against so wondrous a boon?" you will even now be crying. "Does he not want to be able to blow kisses at his distant loved ones while he is celebrating the closure of his deal with Happitrash Novelties (Kyoto) Inc?" Well, possibly, depending perhaps on whom I am celebrating it with at the Kyoto end, but are we still so green that we cannot see the iron truth in the velvet marketing? Con the leaflet deeper: "Use this video to see goods for sale, to choose a photographic model for an assignment, or to see new products in three dimensions."

No need, I feel, to dot i's and cross t's, where the conjunction of

eyes and tease is only too apparent. The phone rings, unbidden, in 1996, and who is this but a man in a camel-hair coat offering me a double-glazed Skoda loft extension, or a fabulous chance to win a sun-soaked weekend on the Gdansk Riviera? If, that is, it is not ravishing Sharon Chantelle murmuring to me from her delightful leatherette boudoir?

Nor is it merely exploitative intrusion we have to fear: the present telephone's infirmity is its greatest boon, it cannot see us when we cover the mouthpiece and concoct excuses, she's not here right now, I have mumps, we're going to be in Mongolia that night, the cheque went off yesterday... What will you do in 1996, stick a hand over the lens while you prevaricate and lie?

"The possibilities are endless" shrieks the Taurus leaflet. Well, yes; and the probabilities?

هكذا من الاصل



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 11: The Princess of Wales visited Thomas Coram Foundation's Mobile Team in Camden.

Viscountess Campden and Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jepson, RN were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 42; Mr Ernest Armstrong, former MP, 75; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 57; Sir Charles Ball, company director, 86; Mr H.C.H. Barratt, trades unionist, 85; Lord Boardman, 71; Mr P.W. Botha, former South African president, 74; Sir James Bottomley, diplomat, 70; Air Vice-Marshal S.O. Butler, 62; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 61; Mr James Byam Shaw, art historian, 87; Miss Stella Canfield, stateswoman, 73; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 42; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 46; Mr Eric Heffer, MP, 68; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 49; Lord Justice McCowan, 62; Mr Deays Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 64; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 69; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 58; Sir John Rennie, former governor-general, Mauritius, 75; Sir Terence Strickland, diplomat, 60; Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, 59.

Service dinners

RAF Supply Branch
The RAF Supply Branch held a guest night last night at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, in honour of Air Vice-Marshal R.C. Allerton, retiring Director-General of Supply. Wing Commander J.J. Cooke presided and Air Chief-Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, Air Member for Supply and Organization, also spoke. Air Marshal Sir Frank Holroyd, Air Marshal Sir Thomas Storer, Rear-Admiral D.M. Pulver, and Mr T. Knapp were the principal guests.

HQ RAF Support Command
Wing Commander J. Young presided at a dining-in-night given by Officers of HQ RAF Support Command and RAF Brampton last night in Brampton Park Officers' Mess to mark the retirement of Air Commodore M.C. Darby. Air Vice-Marshal M.J.C.W. Dickson also spoke.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner at the Mansion House last night the members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mayors and Leaders of the Greater London Boroughs, Aldermen, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London. The speakers were the Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner. Sir Ralph Penn and Mr Richard Page, MP, were among the other guests.

L.A. Wingfield

The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators of the City of London announces that a Memorial Service for its late Founder Member and Clerk, Liveryman L.A. Wingfield, M.C., D.F.C., will be held at St Michael's Church, Cornhill, on January 23, 1990 at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir Bernard Ashley and Madam Regine Burnett
The engagement is announced between Sir Bernard Ashley, of 43 Rue Ducale, Brussels, and Madam Regine Burnett, also of Brussels. The marriage will take place in the summer.

Mr H.G. D'Oyly and Miss A.E. White
The engagement is announced between Hadley Gregory, only son of Sir Nigel D'Oyly, Bt and the late Mrs Dolores D'Oyly, of Crowhurst, Sussex, and Aunette Frances Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs Michael White, of Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.W.F. Hayward and Miss M.C. Gray
The engagement is announced between Charles William Francis, younger son of Sir Anthony and Lady Hayward, of Dane Street House, Chatham, Kent, and Michele Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Branch, of Huxley, Vane, Touchen End, Berkshire.

Mr D.J. Aarons and Miss L.J. Aarons
The engagement is announced between David Jeffrey, only son of Mr Sidney Aarons and the late Mrs Yvonne Aarons, stepson of Mrs Irene Aarons, and Linda Jeanette, only daughter of Mr Leslie Aarons and the late Mrs Freda Aarons, stepdaughter of Mrs Ruth Aarons.

Mr D.H. Renow and Miss V.J. Branch
The engagement is announced between David Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Barrow, of East Haddon, Northamptonshire, and Vanessa Julie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs James Branch, of Boughton, Northamptonshire.

Mr R.P.E. Harris and Dr F.H. Barry-Roberts
The engagement is announced between Henry, only son of Commander Peter Barton, RN and the late Mrs Susan Barton, of Putney, London, and Frances Helen, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. Barry-Roberts, of Motcombe, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Major S.P.M. Blyth and Miss D.J. Cassius
The engagement is announced between Major Seymour Blyth, the Royal Anglian Regiment, son of Col and Mrs P.D. Blyth, of Walsingham-le-Wilford, Suffolk, and Deborah, daughter of the late Dr N.E. Cameron and Mrs R. Stowe, of Walmer, Kent.

Mr J. Cline and Miss E.S.C. Windsor
The engagement is announced between Jamie, son of Senor and Senora Cline, of Lima, Peru, and Helen St Clair, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Windsor, of Edburton, West Sussex.

Mr R.J.S. Drinkwater and Miss V.A. Harding
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs C.P. Drinkwater, of the Isle of Wight, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.C. Harding, of New House Farm, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

Mr J.W. Edgar and Miss S.J. Yeates
The engagement is announced between James William, son of the late Mr W.D. Edgar and of Mrs J.P. Edgar, of Staindrop, nr Darlington, Co Durham, and Sophie Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.R. Yeates, of Kingsbridge, Devon.

Li S.S.J. Elliott and Miss C.M. Bham
The engagement is announced between Li Shane Swynfen Jervis Elliott, 1st Baronet, The Queen's Remounts, and Miss C.M. Bham, of Langport, Somerset, and Caroline Mary, younger daughter of Mr R.R.L. Blum, of Stoke Prior, Herefordshire, and Mrs T. Blum, of Swanton, Hampshire.

Mr A.T. Fanshawe and Miss K. Bevan
The engagement is announced between Anthony Thomas, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Fanshawe, of Wetham Manor, Boscawen, Cornwall, and Katherine, only daughter of Dr and Mrs James Bevan, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr P.E. Fearley and Miss F.H. David
The engagement is announced between Philip Edward, elder son of Mr Edward Fearley, of Portcawl, Mid-Glamorgan, and Fiona Helen, younger daughter of Dr David and Dr Elizabeth David, of Havertonwood, Farnborough, Kent.

Mr M.J. Fresh and Miss F.E. McShane
The engagement is announced between Michael John, only son of Mr and Mrs F.R. Fresh, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Fiona Elizabeth, elder daughter of Dr C.B. McShane, of Litton Cheney, Dorset, and Mrs P.E. McShane, of Teddington, Middlesex.

Mr M.D. Goldsmith and Miss N.J. Angel
The engagement is announced between Mark David, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.D. Goldsmith, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Nicola Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Angel, of Dulwich, London.

Mr D.R. Howard and Mrs M. Thornton
The engagement is announced between David, husband of the late Esme (Mick) Howard and Mary (nee Maries), widow of Edward Thornton.

Mr M. Hes and Miss N.A. Housh
The engagement is announced between Martin, second son of Mr and Mrs R. Hes, of Huntingfield, Suffolk, and Chloe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Provan, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Mr M.G. Irving and Miss P.J. Bennett
The engagement is announced between Michael Geoffrey, younger son of Mr and Mrs James Irving, of Newbury, Berkshire, and Pamela Jean, daughter of Mr and Mrs Albert Bennett, of Inglestone, Essex.

Mr D.L. Liddell and Miss C.C.M. Barille
The engagement is announced between David Lyon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs T.L. Liddell, of Dormans Corner, Lingfield, Sussex, and Catherine Margaret, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.P. Berlin, of Castelfield, Basingstoke.

Mr G.C.A. Macdonald and Miss A.C. Wright
The engagement is announced between George, younger son of Mr and Mrs George Macdonald, of Corstorphine, Edinburgh, and Catherine Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James M. Wright, of Beaumont-cum-Moze, Essex.

Major S.M. Marriott and Miss C.L. Wells
The engagement is announced between Major Simon Marriott, 17th/21st Lancers, elder son of the late Captain P.B. Marriott, DSO, DSC, RN, and of Mrs Marriott, of East Wretham, Thetford, Norfolk, and Caroline, daughter of Dr and Mrs M.D. Wells, of Hildenborough, Kent.

Mr P.P. McGahan and Miss C.A. Laflin
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs P. McGahan, of St Lawrence, Jersey, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.G. Laflin, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr S.M.T. Odono and Miss A. Cahill
The engagement is announced between Sebastian, second son of Tim and the late Ann Odono, of Kilmory, Hampshire, and Anna Elizabeth, daughter of the late Thomas Cahill and of Mrs Cahill, of Kilmory Hill, Ennis, County Clare.

Mr R.M. Redwood and Mrs S.A. Hayward
The engagement is announced between Robert Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs Roy Redwood, of Beaconsfield, Bucks, and Sally Ann, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Eileen Hayward and the late Thomas Kenneth Hayward, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

M.A. Robin and Miss C. Colchester
The engagement has been announced between Antoine, son of Monsieur and Madame Michel Robin, of Paris, and Chloe, daughter of the Rev Halsey and Mrs Colchester, of Oxford.

Mr D.M.A. Samengo-Turner and Miss A.E. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Dominic Michael Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs William Samengo-Turner, of Polansello, Monte Gabbione, Umbria, Italy, and Annabel Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Wilson, of The Manor House, Lindfield, Sussex.

Mr J.D. Schoenberg and Miss R.J. Knack
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mr Sarah Schoenberg and the late Mr Stanley Schoenberg, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Beverly, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Knack, of Chipping Ongar.

Mr A.C. Shaw and Miss S.E. Carr
The engagement is announced between Alexander Colin, elder son of Mrs Patricia and Mr Gordon Shaw, of Edinburgh, and Susan Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mrs Margaret and the late Mr Anthony Carr, of Ilkley.

Mr P.D. Sutherland and Miss A.M. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of Dr Douglas Sutherland and Dr Veronica Sutherland, of Dunfermline, Yorkshire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Thompson, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr J.N.R. Wadhwa and Miss S.J. Cassidy
The engagement is announced between Julian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R.N. Wadhwa, of Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk, and Shirley, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Cassidy, of Emsworth, Hampshire.

Mr E.T. Watkins and Miss T.E. Reading
The engagement is announced between Richard Timothy, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Watkins, of Wimbledon, SW20, and Tanya Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.F. Reading, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire.

Captain S.R. West and Miss S.J. Middleton
The engagement is announced between Simon Rupert, West, Royal Regiment of Artillery, son of Dr Richard and Dr Jenny West, of Merton Park, London, and Sarah Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Graham H. Middleton, of Bredwardine, Herefordshire.

OBITUARIES

JOHN SCUPHAM

Education on the air-waves

John Scupham, OBE, who died on January 10 at the age of 85, was the first overall Controller of BBC Education and helped to create the Open University.

He gave nearly 60 years of distinguished service to education, particularly on radio and television and the many other forms of educational communication they made possible.

Twenty years of these were spent in the BBC. He followed and extended Mary Somerville's pioneering work in school radio and added school television. He also managed to unite post-school radio and television in a single service and to set up for it acceptable systems of guidance from "the world of education". He retired from the post of overall Controller in 1965.

Scupham was one of the earliest to perceive the possibilities of combining new with traditional routes to learning - broadcasting, print, audio-visual contact, home study by correspondence and counselling - using all or any as might be most effective. Backed by the team he had recruited and led, he was a central figure in the planning and realization of the Open University, serving on the preparatory committees, on its Council, and on numerous important committees for many years into his retirement.

In 1961 he was appointed OBE, and he received an honorary doctorate from the Open University in 1975.

John Scupham's contributions to education were not limited to the media. Born on September 7, 1904, he won a major Open Scholarship to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1923, and a double first in History and English. He then spent 15 years in many educational jobs - teaching in grammar schools and a technical college, lecturing in university adult education and to the Forces, and examining for university scholarships.

As his own education had begun in an elementary school, and a county grammar



school in Lincolnshire, he brought to the BBC an unusually wide range of first-hand experience and sympathy.

He was one of the key members of the Newson Committee, whose report *Half our Future* in 1963 did much to champion the unmet needs of children of average or below average ability. It led not only to the raising of the legal leaving age but to a wider recognition of these children's needs. With the support of the School Broadcasting Council, Scupham developed and shaped school broadcasts to lead and support schools' responses to the Newson vision.

When the Pilkington Report on broadcasting came out in 1962 it was Scupham who pushed a reluctant television management into making a start with deliberately educational series on BBC1 and BBC2. The experience gained led him to make proposals for a College of the Air that were later to emerge in the more ambitious Open University project.

As a committed and active Christian - he served for many years on the Church of England Board of Education - Scupham's ideas about education and broadcasting were aligned to those of Matthew Arnold and John Reith. In his book *Broadcasting and the Community* he quoted Reith's distinction of programmes contributing to education as "a systematic and sustained

endeavour to re-create, to build up knowledge, experience and character" from those that carried out "the great education work" for making life "more interesting and enjoyable than it would otherwise be".

Scupham's work lay with the first group. His task was to explore in detail how the new media could each serve particular educational roles, singly or in conjunction, and how staff, space, resources and control could be secured from the BBC to produce a service that would command respect. This entailed achieving and maintaining two sets of relationships, one internal and one external. The external was with "the educational world" for which separate mechanisms were needed for the school system, the Open University and the general adult population. The internal was with the governance and management of the BBC and with the talent, drive and impatience of "the young lions" of television. To the resolution of the tensions and contentions of these relationships, Scupham brought, besides courage, resourcefulness and energy, his great intellectual ability, a notable educational perceptiveness and a talent for cogent and luminous expression.

His relationships with his staff were uniformly courteous and considerate. They looked to him for wise and penetrating counsel which they repaid by deep respect and steady support for his determination to extend educational opportunities to all levels of all people. He made, too, a number of very close and long-lasting friendships with other professional colleagues.

The conjunction of this remarkable, quiet man with the challenges of his time brought great benefit and credit to British Broadcasting and to its reputation abroad.

His wife, Dorothy, died two years ago. He is survived by their son, Peter, and daughter, Ann.

PROFESSOR HARRY SHAPIRO

Studying the descendants of the Bounty mutineers

Professor Harry L. Shapiro, a leading anthropologist who helped to identify unknown soldiers killed in the Second World War, has died at the age of 87. He was also involved in the search for the fossil remains of Peking Man, whose disappearance gave rise to an international dispute. With his death, physical anthropology has lost one of its founding fathers.

Born in Boston on March 19, 1902, Harry Lionel Shapiro attended Harvard for his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, becoming one of the first Americans to obtain a doctorate in physical anthropology. In 1926 he was appointed an Assistant Curator in the Department of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, thus beginning a lifelong association with the Museum.

He became an Associate Curator in 1931 and then from 1942 until his retirement in 1970 he was the Chairman of the Department and Curator

of Physical Anthropology. After his so-called retirement he continued to work as a lecturer at the Museum and until 1974 as a teacher at Columbia University.

In his early years his principal concerns were with the problems of human identity, a subject that has grown into what is now termed forensic anthropology. His methods of establishing the identity of unknown human remains was used by the American Graves Registration Command and he travelled widely in Europe after the war, assisting in the identification of the unknown dead. His expertise was widely used by the New York City Medical Examiner's Office in helping to identify the unknown victims of murder in New York.

He was also responsible for pioneering work in the genetics of small and mixed populations. In 1934 he was the first to study the effects of the intermarriage of the Bounty mutineers and the local Tahitian women through their

descendants on Norfolk and Pitcairn Islands. He sought and seemed to find evidence of heterosis, or hybrid vigour, from these mixed marriages. These studies formed the basis of his later work on the Japanese population of Hawaii.

His most widely known research, however, relates to the remains of Peking Man that were lost early in the war during the Japanese invasion of China. Subsequently the Chinese authorities accused the Americans of stealing the precious fossils since they believed them to have been dispatched there before the Japanese arrived. The detective story of Shapiro's search for the fossils was published in 1974 and is a gripping yarn sadly without a denouement - the fossils are still missing.

He was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal in 1964 and in 1977 gained the New York Academy of Sciences Award for Scientific Achievement.

LIEUT-GEN BASILIO OKELLO

Overthrow of the Obote regime in Uganda

Lieutenant-General Basilio Okello, a Ugandan army officer who in 1985 led the military coup which overthrew President Milton Obote, has died in exile in Sudan. He was 72.

Having seized power in the coup, which took place on July 27, Okello - who was then a Brigadier - did not take over the reins of government himself, but installed the army commander, Lieutenant-General T. Okello (no relation), as head of state. However the T. Okello government - of which Basilio Okello was very much the *eminence grise* and controller - was short lived, and both Okellos were forced to flee the country in a coup which took place only six months after their own.

Basilio Okello had been a career officer in the Ugandan army from its earliest days. He served under Idi Amin, but later fled to the Sudan to begin the campaign of resistance



against him. Subsequently he went to Tanzania and returned to Uganda with the invasion force consisting of the Tanzanian Army and the exiled troops of the Ugandan National Liberation Army which toppled Amin in 1979.

A devout Roman Catholic, Okello was not at first regarded as a threat to the government of Milton Obote which ruled Uganda from 1980, after a period of confusion. But in July, 1985, he led troops from northern Uganda to oust Obote, who fled first to Kenya and then to Zambia.

Though installing Tito Okello as head of a military council which was intended to govern for a year pending the organization of elections, Basilio Okello kept a close watch on events. But the National Resistance Movement (NRM) of Lieutenant-General Yoweri Museveni - the present head of state - began a military coup to overthrow Okello and in January 1986 dissolved the military council.

Okello took refuge in Sudan, where he was sought by the Museveni regime for alleged atrocities committed during the military council's time in power. Tito Okello lives in exile in Tanzania.

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SCIENCE REPORT

Pulsar linked with supernova

Some stars end their lives in spectacular fashion by exploding to leave a tiny, rotating neutron star or pulsar embedded in the centre of an expanding shell of gas, resembling a pearl inside an oyster.

But, like the optimism of the tramp who walks into a restaurant with the intention of paying for his order of a dozen oysters with the pearl he hopes to find in one of them, the association between pulsars and supernova remnants is often more of a matter of hopeful expectation than certainty.

Of the dozens of pulsars and supernova remnants that have been discovered separately, there are only six cases in which the one is definitely associated with the other. These associations all come from relatively recent supernovae, ones in which the clouds of debris have not had enough time to dissipate into invisibility. Of the six youngest-known pulsars in the Galaxy, four are associated with supernova remnants. The best-known is the Crab Nebula in Taurus, the remains of a supernova explosion observed by Chinese astronomers in AD 1054. The Crab contains a pulsar rotating on its axis once every 33 milliseconds.

A possible seventh example of a pulsar-remnant link is now suggested in today's issue

of *Nature* (vol 343, pp 146-148) by Naim E. Kassim and Kurt W. Weiler, of the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC.

They have been taking radio "pictures" of a supernova remnant in Sagittarius that seems to be associated with a pulsar called 1800-21 that is believed to be about 16,000 years old. They show that the link between the two is probably real, so it is no coincidence that they just happen to lie along the same line of sight from Earth.

But there is a difficulty, because the pulsar appears to be at the edge of the spherical remnant, rather than in the middle. This implies that the pulsar would have moved from the centre to the edge during its short life: in turn implying a truly cracking and possibly unfeasibly large turn of speed. The researchers discuss several solutions to this problem. It could be that the supernova remnant and the pulsar are both much closer to us than the approximately 18,000 light years the scientists estimate. This would make the apparent velocity of the pulsar across the line of sight much less than previously thought. But the researchers dismiss this possibility and accept the rapid motion of the pulsar as given, and an idea that could be tested further.

An intriguing possibility is that the supernova remnant is much more extended and diffuse than has been thought, so that the pulsar is in fact nearer the centre of the remnant, relative to the whole, than has been indicated. Indeed, there are hints that this might be so in their data.

The scientists looked at the supernova remnant using the Very Large Array (VLA), a battery of 27 synchronized radio telescopes in the New Mexico desert. These telescopes can be moved about on a Y-shaped arrangement of railway tracks. Spreading the telescopes on the Y - so that the most widely-spaced telescopes are 20 miles apart - allows high-resolution study of small, intense radio sources. Bunching them together at the centre of the Y allows the examination of diffuse sources (such as supernova remnants) with less resolution but very high sensitivity, the delicacy needed to detect faint wisps of supernova debris.

Kassim and Weiler used the tightly-bunched VLA configuration to study the remnant on the 90-centimetre band, picking up suggestions that the remnant is more extensive than expected.

Henry Gee

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ملا من الاصل

THE ARTS/ROCK

Why is the music press pouring scorn on "coffee table rock"? Steve Turner speaks up for maturity

Rock and rolls and wrinkles

There has been wailing and gnashing of teeth by some rock critics as the Eighties have come under review. The main cause of the agony has been what might be called the Phil-Collinization of rock and roll: the fact that the bulk of the biggest acts in the world are now middle-aged. It does not worry the general public much, but it worries writers who see it as an indication of falling standards and lost ideals. They think back to the days when singers had enough hair to consider a choice of styles, when fathers shouted "turn that racket down", and local councils put bans on the music. Then they see Prince Charles shaking hands with nice guy Phil and they begin to weep. Why, oh why, they cry, are young people buying the music of a 50-year-old woman (Tina Turner) or a 40-year-old man (Bruce Springsteen)? Why did it have to be those "wrinkle rockers", the Rolling Stones, who mounted the most lucrative tour of America last year? Why did Pete Townshend not expire peacefully before he got old? Oddly, the lament rarely extends to black male artists. There have been no calls for James Brown, now 56, to seek early retirement, and at 72 John Lee Hooker is counted a living legend. BB King had to wait until he was 64 to support U2 on tour. Another troubling worry for critics is the ageing of the white rock audience. Rock is now bought by executives with CD players; over-25s dominate the album-buying market. The music that once shook the walls of the city now gently vibrates the cocktail cabinet. They also report appalling concert scenes: unfashionable people, some with receding hairlines, who sit down in their seats during slow numbers and who clap their hands rather than punch the ozone layer. There have even been sightings of parents taking their children to see



Phil Collins: critics battle to understand the "Collinization" of rock



Tina Turner at 50: effortlessly attracting the next generation of fans



Mick Jagger: his generation found it is not such a drag growing old

The Who and Paul McCartney. "If the atmosphere had been a bit more abandoned and boisterous this could almost have been the Proms," wrote one reviewer of McCartney's current audience. "They... looked the sort that wouldn't recognize a designer if one inscribed his or her name on their casual leatherwear."

This snuffy attitude — middle-aged used as a term of derision rather than to describe a time of life — is itself based on a rather old premise, that rock is a music by and for

young people, with lyrics rooted in adolescent restlessness, a music which has failed in its mission if comprehended by the older generation. Those days are long gone. The oldest people to have had a teenage experience of rock are now in their mid-50s, so rock is music enjoyed by at least three generations. There is a generic connection — although a qualitative difference — between Elvis Presley and Jason Donovan, whereas there wasn't between Bing Crosby and Elvis Presley.

Parents raised on the Beatles stand a good chance of understanding and appreciating De La Soul and Stone Roses. Kids raid their parents' record collections and wonder why they were not told earlier about Jimi Hendrix. Grown-ups sniff out Top of the Pops because they know what a sin it is to be "out of touch". But in the Fifties parents hoped their children would grow out of rock and roll and move on to Joe Loss and Mantovani. The parents of the Sixties were convinced that

by the time Mick Jagger was 30 he would have a sensible haircut. Of course, rock helped make the rod with which it is now being beaten. When Mick Jagger said "I can't imagine prancing about on Top of the Pops when I'm 30" and then sang "What a drag it is getting old" in "Mother's Little Helper", he was helping to sustain the myth that rock was a young man's business, and that clinging on to life when the wrinkles set in would be a capitulation to the forces of greyness. The fact is, Jagger and

his generation grew old and found that it was not such a drag. What does have to be acknowledged is that the old songs lose their cultural resonance. "Satisfaction", as sung by a middle-aged multi-millionaire with four children in 1990, means something different from what it did in 1965. Back then it was possible that the 22-year-old Jagger was not getting enough "girl reaction", and was irritated by radio and television commercials. Now we know he is just acting.

David Toop looks at the advance of compact discs and the threat to the industry

New waves in sea of sound

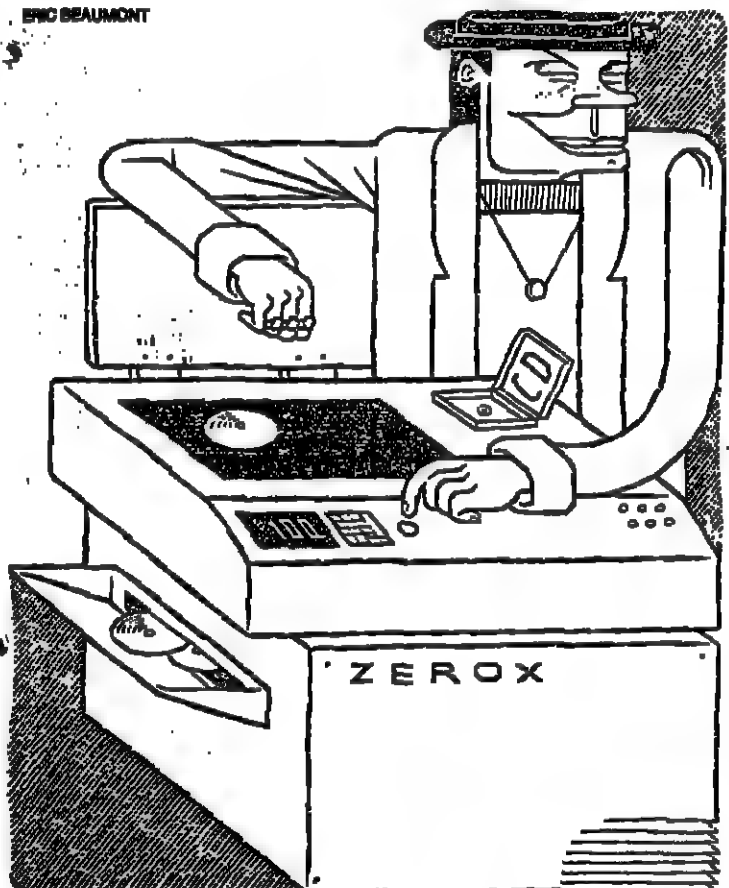
According to American comedian Rita Rudner, the homeless people who shuffle around the streets of New York pushing shopping trolleys full of strange possessions are victims of the audio technology revolution. They committed themselves to Quad hi-fi systems in the Seventies and have never recovered from its demise. "I just can't bring myself to buy a CD player until I have something in writing to say that's the last thing they are going to invent," says Rudner. There is a justifiable fear that, by the end of the century, those ubiquitous black stacking systems will have reached the ceiling and will require a step ladder as an operational accessory. But even so, according to the 1989/90 year book of the British Phonographic Institute, many rack systems now exclude record turntables, in anticipation of the day when vinyl becomes obsolete. To compensate, there is the growing popularity of the compact disc player, and the looming threat of CD-R, CD-E and DAT. CD-E is an erasable CD which can be used to record and re-record perfect copies of source

material; CD-R is a CD which can be used just once for this purpose; and DAT is a digital audio tape, which can also "clone" an original but has the potential disadvantage of deteriorating tape. These acronyms may mean nothing to you, but to the music industry they are the equivalent of a scarlet cloth in a Spanish bullfight. Audio-tech guru Barry Fox could offer little on the subject, except to sow the seeds of fear. "It is a tricky subject," he said, "and if you're not careful, you'll get badly out of your depth. Anyone who comes into this area risks getting a lot of flack from BPI and International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers." The BPI is particularly sensitive. This week, for example, they took issue with the magazine *Which?* Lawyers have been consulted in connection with the frequent claims by *Which?* that the major record companies are "milking their customers" by overcharging for compact discs. The year book itself is in-

troduced with fighting talk. "In the past," the BPI claims, "the British record industry has perhaps been one of the softest targets for ill-informed criticism from a variety of quarters, notably the tabloid press." "It is too often identified with the excesses of popular culture and this obscures the major contribution that the British record industry makes to the health of the economy as a whole and the total sum of enjoyment in everyday life." Yet without the excesses of popular culture, the British record industry would be a stunted plant indeed. One example of lawless behaviour which enrages the BPI like no other is the vexed issue of home taping. There is no question that the home taping of recorded music causes a loss of revenue for record companies, but one problem for the BPI is to convince consumers that they are morally wrong to indulge in this practice. The developments of CD-R, CD-E and DAT have all intensified the debate. All presage a

bleak future of illicit duplication on a grand scale, as far as the BPI is concerned. A large proportion of the music-buying public is not convinced that it should consider the record industry with benevolence. After all, some buying of compact discs is solely to replace vinyl pressings of intolerably poor quality. In such cases the consumer pays twice while the artists and record companies receive a second helping of revenue. The advent of compact discs has invigorated the record industry financially. Perhaps it briefly suggested a utopian dawn of passive consumption, listening to perfect reproductions of perfect music on perfect hardware. But popular music will always rely on an active approach to technology for its artistic growth. And technology will inevitably produce unwelcome effects to spoil its positive contributions. Record companies are surely foolish to believe that they can enjoy all the benefits and suffer none of the drawbacks.

Likewise, Paul McCartney singing "Get Back" with a mock psychedelic light show is more a Madame Tussaud's showcase than a rallying call for stoned hippies. But the power of songs to evoke memories of past decades is not a weakness. It seems reasonable to me that McCartney has chosen to play a selection of his past hits rather than an experimental blend of Acid House and New Orleans jazz, that his audience is drawn from the forty-ish generation and that none of them are carted off in trance states. It also seems reasonable that any generation reared on rock will want to stick with it. The tight leather pants worn at 17 would look ridiculous at 42, but why should a new CD be out of place? Broadly speaking, the music created by older rock fans will contain more comfort than challenge, more familiarity than surprise. But then, with three kids, work pressures, a mortgage and early morning traffic, these people are looking to lower their blood pressure rather than raise their energy levels when they turn on the stereo. This is where the so-called "coffee table" rock of Dire Straits, Sting, Phil Collins and Chris Rea scores. This music has found its generation: a generation with money, car stereos and compact-disc players. Rock is destined to get older still. They are not going to give up playing it and we are not going to give up listening to it. At one time marketing departments spoke of the 18-25 age group, then it expanded to become the 18-35s. Now it is 18-45 and growing. But this would only be worth lamenting if it crushed the abrasive music traditionally created by the young and hungry. As it is, Guns 'n' Roses can exist alongside Pink Floyd; Happy Mondays can play in the same world as Eric Clapton.



ALBUMS

David Sinclair

Rodney Crowell: Keys to the Highway (CBS 466002 1)
So much of country music, whether new or old, conspires to give the impression that the person singing it is on the verge of falling into a deep sleep; something to do with those long, drawn-out syllables, and the lugubrious sound of the pedal steel keeping like warm treacle in the grooves of so many gently lilting rhythms. Not so the work of the Texan singer-songwriter Rodney Crowell whose *Keys to the Highway* opens with a razor-sharp, up-tempo romp called "My Past is Present" which hits the senses like a splash of cold water in the face. The immediacy is maintained by "If Looks Could Kill", a swaggering honky-tonk with a bass line that strides out with a brisk, easy confidence, and "Tell me the Truth", a superb slice of Fifties-style rockabilly swing which opens the second side. Two other modern acts who have consistently mastered this kind of hot-wired "jump" country are Albert "Country Boy" Lee and Ricky Skaggs, both of whom share with Crowell the cachet of having worked their way up via the ranks of Emmylou Harris's incomparable Hot Band. Crowell's own band, the Dixie Pearls, is an enviable neat and supple unit and boasts a golden asset in the gorgeously rich guitar tone of Stuart Smith, who performs with notable élan throughout, but glides the contemplative "Don't Let Your Feet Slow You Down" with some especially wondrous frills. A more lachrymose mood sets in generally towards the end of the album with a trilling mandolin casting dappled shades across the ballad "Things I Wish I'd Said", and only one rather sickly lament, "You Been on my Mind", right at the finish, marginally quelling an otherwise magnificent pitch.

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Toop and David Sinclair

BURNING FLAMES: With the current revival of ponchos and flares, sartorial bad taste is bidding a firm farewell to the style decade. Burning Flames is an Antiguan quartet which excels in the wearing of frightful clothes but its style expertise stitches together music from the Caribbean and West Africa. Stoke Newington Assembly Hall, London, N16 (01-388 5533). Tonight, 8pm, £7.
FINN TRIBE: The finest moment so far for Scotland's militant vegetarians has been "The Testimony", with its sampled



Dembo Korte and Kausu Kuyateh: joining forces to make a jolly roll

Dembo Korte, Kausu Kuyateh & the Jali Roll Orchestra: Jali Roll (Rogue FM50 5020)
There is a decidedly bizarre quality to the fusions which ensue. On "Amadou Fall" the harp-like kora tones twinkle ethereally, while Kirkpatrick weaves a merry jig with his accordion. The Mustaphas' bassist and drummer nail down a relatively conventional funk beat, a horn section skates nimbly up and down the register while the high West African harmony singing snakes loosely in and out above the general mêlée. On "Lambango" a tongue-twisting barrage of African vocalese is underpinned by an incongruously cool, walking swing bass line, and so forth. Quite what these combinations achieve, beyond their novelty, is uncertain. There is little development of the songs, which seem to chase their tails for five or six minutes once the basic themes have been stated, although several grooves of great prettiness emerge. The Sundays: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic (Rough Trade ROUGH 148)
The Sundays are one of those insufferably hip groups that pop up from time to time, whose prime function seems to be to provide music journalists with a raison d'être. Convened in Bristol in 1988, by singer Harriet Wheeler and guitarist David Gavurin, they were featured on the cover of *Melody Maker* before they had even released a single, and then lionized everywhere else out of all proportion to anything they were likely to achieve. Their cool, arty poise and predictably jangly guitar sound betrays a host of impeccable (independent) influences, most glaringly the Smiths (especially on "I Kicked A Boy") and the Cocteau Twins. Harriet Wheeler's voice has a pellucid, occasionally piercing quality, from which all hint of emotion has been ruthlessly expunged. The songs are self-conscious, soulless artifices.

church bells booming over a dance beat. They are now touring to promote the album, *Grossing 10K*. Fat Sams, Southward Rd, Dundee (0382 26836), Sunday, 10.30pm.
MARCIA GRIFFITHS: Appearing on the same bill as distinguished reggae veterans Dennis Brown and Freddie McGregor, Griffiths was a member of Bob Marley's vocal backing group, the I-Threes. She is currently having success in the US with a re-issue of her ground-breaking single "Electric Boogie". Academy, Brixton, London SW9 (01-326 1022). Tomorrow, 7.30pm, £8.50.
LENNY KRAVITZ: Torrance Trent D'Arby and Andrew Roachford were among celebrities who turned out to Kravitz's barnstorming shows at London's Bordenline last

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THE ARTS

Mourning and after

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

If death really is the last taboo in this country, then Nicky Cheek's harrowing documentary on BBC 2 last night for *40 Minutes* may have gone some way towards opening up the debate that nobody really wants to have.

"A Place For Tom" centred on the pioneering efforts of the Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool, to involve the parents and grandparents of dead children in some kind of therapy programme, which could overcome the mindless cruelty of friends and neighbours and even relatives saying "You'll be better after the funeral", or "After all, you've got another two kids".

Inevitably, any documentary of this nature lends itself to charges of voyeurism, and there were indeed moments when the close-ups of young bereaved mothers recalling the discovery of a cot death, or lingering shots of piles of unused toys, seemed to be intruding into private grief. There were also moments when the film lost its focus, to drift off in search of ritually dotty spiritualists.

But the film raised some crucial questions, even if it did not always answer them. Is the Alder Centre the only place in the country where bereaved parents can expect some sort of psychiatric continuity of treatment? And, if so, is there any hope that counselling of this nature will spread to other hospitals and communities?

The idea of having parents long experienced in the grief of a dead child come together with those newly bereaved seems admirable, as does the decision to allow parents access to medical records and the precise details of their child's death, which are so often withheld by hospitals still believing in the virtues of secrecy.

If you lose a parent, as one of the mothers pointed out, you lose your past; if you lose a child, you lose your future, and it is in an attempt to reclaim that future that the Alder Hey is now working in partnership with the parents of dead children, to overcome in discussion groups and therapy sessions the isolation and heart-breaking despair that come of a tragedy which has for all too long and often been boxed away like the coffin itself.

And yet the real shock of "A Place For Tom" was the realization that so many parents have been made to feel so alone. "A death like this had not happened to anyone I knew, to any of my family or friends," said John Gossney, "I felt like a leper."

The Alder Hey policy is to make parents feel they are not in isolation, that they can talk about their lost children and indeed come together to mourn them. It is a movement which, like that of the Aids hospices, has now to be encouraged to spread nationwide.

Bill McAlister's long reign as emperor of the avant-garde is at an end. After an apparently undignified series of votes of "no confidence", and the appointment of an inquiry team to examine the management structure, the director and his deputy, Lisa Appignanesi, are to leave the Institute of Contemporary Arts next month.

The irony is that, in the 42 years since Roland Penrose and Herbert Read founded the ICA in the hothouse era of post-war surrealism, it has never been better organized. The place was in a state of crisis when Sorbonne-educated McAlister took over in 1977, having been artistic director of the Battersea Arts Centre. The ICA's

Arts correspondent Simon Tait on the background to the resignation of the ICA's director

Exit, left, the emperor of the avant-garde

then chairman, Cob Stenham, muttered unpromisingly, "I hope no-one will expect miracles from poor Mr McAlister."

But something of a miracle was wrought. McAlister acted as a kind of foreman who hired a team of experts and put them to work on their specialities: bold new directions were taken in dance, theatre, films, debates and installations, as well as painting and sculpture.

"All the previous directors had been producers. What Bill did was to organize a system of depart-

ment heads who were the producers, not him. Part of the problem was that before he came Penrose was very much around and making his influence felt," said one former colleague. There were even two different exhibition organizers, neither knowing much about what the other was doing.

The building itself, in The Mall, has been a further problem. The ICA has it on a generous lease, but it is an almost impossible shape for its purpose, and advertising out front is banned by the Crown

because it faces the principal road access to Buckingham Palace.

McAlister said the ICA must stay at the edge of controversy, and it has, not just through the mocking tabloid stories of the Seventies, but with politically dangerous projects such as the Palestinian film season - which miffed the leader of Westminster Council, Lady Porter. Westminster is a major funder of the ICA.

"It is quite wrong to say that I am going because of votes of no

confidence in myself," said McAlister. "There have been rows about matters of internal resources, but there has been no disagreement with the staff about policy."

Nevertheless, insiders say that McAlister has become increasingly remote and irascible as the financial problems have grown. Moreover, the absence of a new general manager - apparently "gapped" to save money for a while, in true bureaucratic style - has angered staff. He and

Appignanesi depart leaving a record deficit of £500,000, almost as much as next year's Arts Council grant - but at least the grant is to be increased by seven per cent, something of a vote of confidence.

The inquiry team - led by Brian Wenham, a former BBC executive, and including three former department heads in Sandy Nairne, Paul Collard and Erica Carter - will report next week to the ICA's board. They are looking at the management structure, but their report is unlikely to be over-critical of McAlister. If the ICA is still seen as a crucible for new art, and it is, their view is likely to be that McAlister is largely responsible.

John Russell Taylor welcomes the opportunity, in a new touring exhibition, to reassess the achievement of the painter Frans Hals

Triumph of the people's painter

Is Frans Hals a painter's painter, to be understood and appreciated only by a select group of his peers, or is he a people's painter, too popular and hackneyed to rate much serious consideration? Is he a comfortable Old Master, or is he a dangerous iconoclast in disguise? Is he one of painting's supreme technicians, or is he culpably careless and slipshod? These are the kind of sweeping alternatives that criticism offers us. What we have lacked, for many years now, is the comprehensive one-man show which would allow us confidently to decide for ourselves. Now the Royal Academy is breath-takingly filling that gap, with a show of nearly 70 paintings, ranging from his earliest known works to his latest. It has already been seen (in, naturally, a slightly different form) at the National Gallery in Washington, will be in London from tomorrow until April 8, and will then move on to the Frans Hals museum in Haarlem.

The first discovery the show offers is that everything they say about Hals is both true and not true. Undoubtedly he is a painter's painter: I happened to look round some of the show with three leading painters, and can testify to the ecstasy Hals's handling of his medium excited in them. But that does not mean that he is at all rarefied, for the cognoscenti alone. Fellow artists may see exactly how he does what he does, and be amazed at the brilliance with which he surmounts or just ignores many perennial problems. But anyone can respond to what he is doing, with no more than the haziest notion of how he is doing it.

As a painter of people Hals has few equals, and the immediately astonishing thing about the show is how directly he puts us in touch with his human material, annihilating differences of time and place. His technique, whether we understand it or not, has a lot to do with that. He got the effects he did primarily by just putting on canvas, in the most direct possible way, what he saw.

When one considers that his was an age in which classicism was the predominate strain, and the observations of the eye were expected to be mediated by the formulations of the mind, it is amazing that he got away with what he did. Did not any of these solid burghers that he painted question his sketching in a facial feature, a hand or a detail of clothing with the fewest possible paint-strokes, so abstract-seeming

when examined in close detail that they match and outdo anything Manet could come up with in a similar line? Was not their puritan conscience appalled by the way he made it all look so quick and easy, when what they wanted was concrete evidence of man-hours spent, brush in hand?

It is in his human, and humane, perception that Hals can go straight to the heart of a non-specialist audience. Take, for instance, one of this show's great coups, the bringing together, after more than a century separated in different collections, of the pendant portraits of Stephanus Geeracius and his wife Isabella Coymans (c. 1650-2). These are unique in the painting of their time, and even in the work of Hals, so often the great exception, in that there is a clear interaction between them, a dramatic situation in which she offers him a rose as a token of love and he, in the other picture, responds by holding out his hand to receive it.

Each of the paintings is, on a purely human level, wonderfully warm and vivid, but put the two together and you get the most amazing reverberations, and an uncanny feeling that this is a tiny moment of time captured for all eternity: she is facing away from him, but her head turns towards him as though he has just said or done something to attract her attention, while they look at each other with half-smiles of such palpable warmth and affection that we for once are left in no doubt about the emotion behind the formalized gesture.

But everywhere you look there is this same emotional directness, this same truth to observed experience. Most often the people shown are in no way distinctive: just ordinary citizens of Haarlem, one supposes. Occasionally Hals goes in for the extreme and the grotesque, as in the "Malle Babbe", with her tankard of ale and the owl on her shoulder, or even the "Fisher Girl" with her wares on the beach.

But still, over and over, we have to wonder not only what contemporaries thought of Hals's style, but where on earth it came from. There is nothing in the work of his teachers or his Haarlem contemporaries to explain it, and he seems almost to have been born with it.

Though there is evident evolution all through his long career, we can already see the makings of his distinctive style very



Warm and vivid: "Isabella Coymans" by Frans Hals, on show at the Royal Academy

clearly in some of the earliest known works, such as the "Jacob Zaffius" of 1611: his handling will grow looser and more dazzlingly confident over the next 55 years, but his unmistakable touch is already there.

Surprisingly, for a painter who lets himself be so totally known in his work, Hals remains personally very mysterious.

There are no surviving drawings by him, and nothing that he painted before he was pushing 30. Whatever were his prentice works like? And how prolific was he?

The curator of the exhibition, Seymour Slive, estimates that the canon is not more than 250 works, from a career covering more than half a century. And this from a man who could evidently, if he wished,

dash off a finished painting in no more than a day. The reason for this apparently low yield is probably that Hals was already out of tune with his own time (a dangerous iconoclast indeed), and even more radically out of tune with the period which came immediately after.

Now, it would seem, was he the easiest person to deal with. The history of the major group portrait, "The Meagre Company" is quite well recorded, in all its vicissitudes. It was commissioned by the City of Amsterdam, a few years before Rembrandt's "Night Watch", and it is some testimony of Hals's standing that such an important commission went to a painter from Haarlem.

However, he dragged his heels to such an extent that first the price was raised, presumably to encourage him, and then finally, when he had not completed it some three years later, it was taken out of his hands and given to Pieter Codde, a capable but much lesser painter, to finish. Meanwhile at one point Hals himself had urged the sitters from the Amsterdam Civil Guard to go and sit in Haarlem, as this would, he said, speed up the whole process remarkably.

As we have it, since recent cleaning, we can see for ourselves just where Hals stops and Codde starts. The elaborately decked figure on the extreme left, holding the standard, must be entirely by Hals, for instance, while the lace on the almost equally elaborate costume of the figure in the centre, with his back turned to us, could never be by Hals: fine but finicky, it is an object-lesson in what kind of art surrounded Hals, and what he, in his powerful and solitary fashion, reacted against.

Another of the great discoveries of the show is the range of small paintings, which he did throughout his life along with the more familiar big pieces. When Slive says of the late, small "Portrait of a Preacher" that all of Hals is there in miniature, and so is most of what painting has always been about, he is surely not far wide of the mark. But throughout, whether you move right away to take in the whole effect at a distance, or (much more excitingly) you move so close that details become richly sensuous abstractions, this is a show to affect both the mind and the heart, and to keep the eye busy until kingdom come. A wonderful way to inaugurate the Nineties!

Humour mingled with horror

OPERA

Hilary Finch

Faust

Coliseum

she glides in as an entirely convincing personification of youth.

She is a princess long before the Jewel Song: what she lacks in girlish vitality and sheer vocal radiance she makes up for in a grave graciousness of manner, which makes a most moving transition into distraction in the last scene.

Masterson's instinct for the Gallic turn of phrase is his greatest strength: the "King of Thule" song, here interrupted by any recitative, was a jewel as rare as any in Faust's casket. Her Jewel Song itself, more pearly than diamondine, a cunning piece of artistry.

The only other newcomer is Steven Page, whose Valentin is as yet vocally tense but as sinister as ever. Her Act Four aria, comforting the abandoned Marguerite, is eloquent with a grave beauty: her final attempt to reach her, when already fatally wounded by Faust, adds the final touch to a performance of minutely observed detail.

lan Judge has returned to direct this revival, and it makes its mark in no small part as a result of the set pieces and the oppressive crowd scenes.

The return of the soldiers, its parade of shattered victims savagely undercutting the victorious and vacuous march, still chills the audience; the scene in the confessional, with Faust directing the Dies Irae, still properly shocks; the all-white mad scene, worthy of Opera Factory's David Freeman at his best, leaves its indelible mark.

So too does the musical direction of Jacques Delacote. He has been at the helm ever since 1985, and he continues to direct the opera's cross-currents of humour and horror with perception and legendariness.

It's only frock and droll

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Gland Motel

Drill Hall Arts Centre

confidence; they attest to that crucial element of the drag subculture, the sovereign importance of the frock.

But in an entertainment the frock must rule as joint sovereign with wit, and here the Bloodline troupe, recent winners of an OBIE award in New York, do well enough to get by capably. Some numbers are only so-so but the seemingly haphazard stage management, carefully contrived, you may be sure, is an engaging running joke, and any shortcomings could be forgiven a show where the closing number, "Keep Your Sunny Side Up", is sung by two fried eggs and a rasher of bacon - the latter, a generous slice of streaky, worn as a stole.

The plot is as thin as the chiffon so liberally used in the costume department. Bette and her four companions are camping out in a New York square when she steps backwards into a truck and is whisked off to the astral plane. Her troupe set off to bring her back to earth, aided by Madame Blavatski and interrupted by the need for occasional song and tap.

Bette Bourne herself has a deep, chestnutty voice and the steady gaze of one who knows precisely the absurdity of her material, relishes just that quality and defies you not to share her enjoyment. The loose format is also, and surprisingly, strong enough to bear "Just a Little Blue" sung unsentimentally to a dead lover by the whiteface artiste identified as Pearl. The show is further remarkable for its lack of snuff. A cheering evening.

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Frenchwoman's lesson in British choreography

Sylvie Guillem's debut as Cinderella on Wednesday was eagerly awaited not only for the excitement which all her appearances cause, but because this was the first time since joining the Royal Ballet that she had danced anything by a British choreographer (although she had success in the Paris Opera's Anthony Tudor programme).

No doubt there will be some chauvinist nit-picking about her performance, but it seems to me that, just as happened with the American Cynthia Harvey in *Symphonic Variations*, the star from overseas gave most of the English dancers a lesson in how to tackle Ashton's choreography.

What a pleasure it was to see all of the steps so clearly set forth. This is only partly a matter of a notably strong and classy technique, although without that she would not have been able to sustain so smoothly and articulately, and at so unhurried a pace, the long and varied sequence of turns circling the stage at the end of her big solo in Act Two. Every jewel on that long necklace of steps shone with unusual brightness.

More important, however, was the intelligent and individual phrasing of every sequence, even the most simple; the clarity of the little runs on point, the quick clean way she brings her feet up in *relevés* or *pas de chat*, the curve of her body and gently swaying arms in the final lift. Above all, every step told something about the character.

With her personality, Guillem could doubtless have held the attention of most spectators through the opening scene, just as

DANCE

John Percival

Cinderella

Covent Garden

Fonteyna used, by simply gazing into the fire. However, she chose another way, besying herself all the time with polishing a jug, stirring a cauldron of soup, trying its flavour and offering her father a sip to taste. Hers is a very practical Cinderella, lively and observant, and kind-hearted too, even to her horrible sisters.

It was good to be distracted almost entirely from watching just how horrible Derek Rencher and Michael Coleman make those characters. Fussily they go on adding unnecessary new jokes, and get even less laughter. Guillem's parody of them, by contrast, showed real bubbling humour.

My heart sinks every time the curtain rises on David Walker's vulgarly ostentatious designs, but according to her custom Guillem insisted on modifying her costumes: slightly more raggedy yet also more glamorous for the fireside scenes; shorter, lighter, springier skirts for her tutus.

Jonathan Cope partnered her ably and animatedly, but the only performance on Guillem's level was Erroll Pickford's jester, vividly blunt in humour, sharply classical but daring in his dancing. The orchestra, under Mark Ermler, was particularly squally and, strangely, intermittently fading.



Raggy yet glamorous: Sylvie Guillem in the title role of Cinderella

Hammersmith Theatre
Leicester

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Leslie Walton
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Peter Waymark

Passion Play (Channel 4, 8.00pm) presents linked portraits of two football clubs, which mirror the religious divisions of their respective cities. Glasgow Rangers has a fiercely Protestant following, while Derry City draws its support from the Catholic population of Londonderry. Mike Cocker's film was made during last season when both clubs were chasing a league and cup double. On this side of the water, at least, the Rangers story is the more familiar and the film does little more than present a conventional fan's eye view of the outrage of some diehard fans at the signing of the Catholic Maurice Johnston seems to have subsided amid continuing success on the field, though Rangers has yet to emulate its Glasgow rival Celtic by winning the European Cup. Of greater



Maurice Johnston: Rangers signed him, despite the outrage of fans (Ch4, 8.00pm)

interest is the Irish segment of the film. Exposed out of business in 1972 because Protestant clubs refused to play in Londonderry, Derry City has been reborn as a member of the Irish Republic's league and plays all its away matches south of the border. The players are a mixture of professionals and part-timers, Catholics and Protestants, and some of the team live in the Republic. While soldiers patrol the streets of Londonderry, Derry City's home games are trouble-free and unpoliced. All of which is a substantial achievement, fully matched by the team's outstanding 1988-89 season in cup and league. But the veteran civil rights leader, Eamonn McCann, warns that Northern Ireland's problems will not be solved by football alone. Despite the club's non-sectarian policy, few Protestants venture into Derry City's Bogside ground. Some of them even support Glasgow Rangers.

Robert Venturi: Back to the Future (BBC2, 9.30pm) is a profile of the American architect who was called to the rescue after the Prince of Wales killed the proposed extension to the London National Gallery by describing it as "a monstrous, burlesque on a face of a much-loved friend". As a champion of post-modernism, about which he has written a seminal book, Venturi was considered just the man to give the National Gallery project a more acceptable face. The film charts the genesis of his design and follows him and his wife (also an architect) in a review of their work in the United States and Europe.

BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Laurie Meyer and Jill Dando. Includes news headlines every 15 minutes, regional sports bulletins, regional news and travel, and 5.00. After Nine with Kathy Taylor.
9.00 News and weather followed by Open Air with Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving. To contribute, ring 061 814 004.
9.20 Kinky. Robert Kinky-Silk chairs a studio discussion.
10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold. Quiz (r).
10.35 Children's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, starts with Playdays. The Tent Stage (r) 10.50.
10.55 Five to Seven. Ellen Atkins with a reading.
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air. Includes a discussion on last night's 40 Minutes documentary about Liverpool's controversial Alder Centre for bereaved parents.
12.00 News and weather followed by News Line with Alan Titchmarsh, Judi Spiers and Simon Pegg. 12.55 Regional News and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton followed by Weather.
1.30 Neighbours. Evicted from Mrs Mangel's house, Sharon and Brown start the search for somewhere else to live. Beverly is worried by Mrs Mangel's fortune-telling, and Scott is busy convincing a way to bring Henry and Brown together. (Cee-fax).
1.50 Film: Where's Jack? (1968), starring Tommy Steele, Stanley Baker, Alan Bates and John Lewis. Realistic, non-romantic adventure set in 18th-century London, where a young man is forced to work as a highwayman for a notorious underworld character in order to save his brother's life. Directed by Jack Clavel.
3.50 Children's BBC, presented by Andy Crane, starts with Doozy. The Disco Bus (r) 3.55. That's a Fact! Lancelotti: The Panto. The Witches 4.10. The New York Bear Show 4.20. The Baron Rides Out, narrated by Nigel Havers (r) 4.30. Cee-fax and Co. To Be or Not To Be (r) 4.55. Newsweek. Roger Fenn reports on unwanted puppies 5.05. Grange Hill. The police arrive at the school to question Robbie. (Cee-fax).
5.35 Matchweek. Another chance to see the episode shown earlier today. (Cee-fax).
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando, followed by Weather.
6.30 Newsweek South East.
7.00 Women with Kate Thatcher.
7.40 'Allo 'Allo! Helga is ordered to find evidence of a plot to blow up Hitler, and René plans to make a scheme to photograph the German plans for the invasion of England (r). (Cee-fax).
8.00 Campion. Sweet Danger. The first of four two-part dramas adapted from Margery Allingham's novels about the private detective. In this episode, Campion is asked to find documents which prove that the Prittons are the rightful owners of a tiny Delaware island where oil has been discovered. Stars Peter Davison and Brian Glover. (Cee-fax).
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk, followed by Regional News and weather.
9.30 Film: Silverfired (1983), starring Meryl Streep, Cher and Kurt Russell. The true story of an American worker at a nuclear processing plant in Oklahoma who uncovers a plutonium radiation leak in his efforts to alert people to the danger the finds her own life threatened by a more sinister force. Directed by Mike Nichols. (Cee-fax).
11.40 A Vision Shared. A tribute to two of America's folk music legends, Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly, with contributions from U2, Arlo Guthrie, Emmylou Harris, Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.
12.40 Film: Coming Out of the Ice (1982), starring John Savage, Ann Cross and Willie Nelson. A made-for-television drama based on the true story of a Detroit boy who went to the Soviet Union to develop his potential as an athlete, was arrested on suspicion of being a spy, and found himself unable to return home. Directed by Wladimir Yudin.
2.15 Weather.

BBC 2

- 6.00 TV-am starts with News and Good Morning Britain, presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Michael Morris and Linda Mitchell. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine with Kathy Taylor.
9.25 Lucky Ladders. Word game with Lesley Ebbetts.
9.55 Theme News and weather.
10.00 The Time... The Place... Mike Scott chairs a studio discussion. This morning with Judy Finnigan. Richard Moxley and fashion expert Lesley Ebbetts. Includes News headlines at 10.55 and Regional News at 11.55.
12.10 Rainbow. Super Burglar. Single seems to have acquired amazing powers just like his hero Superman.
12.30 Home and Away. The news of Alice's pregnancy delights Summer Bay, but she is still keeping the truth from Alf, who is furious with her after finding a note she has slipped under the door.
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Followed by national weather.
1.30 Theme News and weather.
1.50 Soccer. First of the semifinals in the FA Cup. Includes a 15.55 and 16.00 reports on FA Cup action. News and weather at 1.55, 2.55 and 3.50, followed by regional news.
4.00 The Bill. Criminal edition (r).
4.30 The Bill. Further coverage from Blackpool.
5.25 Theme News and weather.
5.30 Sons and Daughters. Pamela puts her devious plans into action.
6.00 GoldenEye. The first of two parts. A young woman starts with a young man. Today's programme, introduced by Timmy Mallett, looks at the art of juggling, with the Sweeney Brothers. The band. Return of the Killer Teddy. A new series of goings-on in the city sewers. Doc Croc and his sewer staff face a 10R teddy bear in a sewer.
6.45 Police Hill. Invasion of the Body Snatchers. The man who is invaded by mutant head lice.
7.10 Home and Away. Another chance to see the episode shown earlier today (r).
7.40 News with Fiona Armstrong followed by national weather. (Cee-fax).
8.00 Six O'Clock Live with Frank Bough and Jari Barnett. Regional reports from Danny Baker, Charles Colville and Shauna Lowry, and Anna Maria Ashe in the LWT newsroom.
7.00 Conversation. Bob Carolese challenges two more contestants to test their powers of memory.
7.30 Conversation. The two women in Ken Barlow's life confront each other. Dec's attempt to return his daughter's hospitality may end in him being hurt. (Cee-fax).
8.00 Whitchurch. Paddy, when Malcolm is asked to offer a counselling pigeon, his mother claims that he's turning the house into a Noah's Ark. (Cee-fax).
8.30 News at Recent. High Noon. Matthew's involvement with a hooded figure leads to him being challenged to a fight. Henry is right behind him, but Matthew is not so keen. Stars John Thaw and Rebecca Dinsdale. (Cee-fax).
9.00 Broken. The children are missing from school. The police find Salim's car at Folkestone and Marlene begins to fear the worst. Stars Art Malik and Cheryl Prime.
10.00 Film: Silverfired (1983). Gal and Trevor McDonald. Followed by weekend weather. (Cee-fax).
10.30 LWT News and weather.
10.35 The London Programme with Trevor Pinnock.
11.05 Snodgrass. Tom France introduces the battle for the remaining place in the final of the Maccabiah Credit Classic.
12.30 William Tell. The Banquet Drama series about the Swiss hero and his fight to free his family and country. Stars Will Lyman and Jeremy Clyde.
1.00 The Jewel. White Radio. Stars followed by a 1.15. 1.30. 1.50. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 2.55. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 3.55. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 4.55. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 5.55. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 6.55. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 7.55. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 8.55. 9.00. 9.15. 9.30. 9.45. 9.55. 10.00. 10.15. 10.30. 10.45. 10.55. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 11.55. 12.00. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 12.55. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 1.55. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 2.55. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 3.55. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 4.55. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 5.55. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 6.55. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 7.55. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 8.55. 9.00. 9.15. 9.30. 9.45. 9.55. 10.00. 10.15. 10.30. 10.45. 10.55. 11.00. 11.15. 11.30. 11.45. 11.55. 12.00. 12.15. 12.30. 12.45. 12.55. 1.00. 1.15. 1.30. 1.45. 1.55. 2.00. 2.15. 2.30. 2.45. 2.55. 3.00. 3.15. 3.30. 3.45. 3.55. 4.00. 4.15. 4.30. 4.45. 4.55. 5.00. 5.15. 5.30. 5.45. 5.55. 6.00. 6.15. 6.30. 6.45. 6.55. 7.00. 7.15. 7.30. 7.45. 7.55. 8.00. 8.15. 8.30. 8.45. 8.55. 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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6570 (-0.0045)
W German mark 2.7885 (-0.0026)
Exchange Index 88.0 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1940.5 (+4.1)
FT-SE 100 2417.9 (+5.3)
USM (Datastream) 158.27 (+0.57)

Market report, page 27

2,321 quit Lloyd's

Lloyd's of London revealed that 2,321 members tendered their resignations in 1989, the most ever in a year. In 1988, 1,750 left the insurance market, and 489 left in 1986.

Profit warning

Jones Stroud, the manufacturer of elastic yarns, name tapes and electrical insulation, has given a warning that profits this year will fall below the £7.1 million of 1988-89.

Tempus, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

Dow Jones	2784.72 (+14.08)
Nikkei Average	38170.13 (+473.82)
Hang Seng	2855.82 (+12.48)
ASX 100	1187.7 (+0.4)
DAX	1855.83 (+18.25)
CAC	8577.00 (+32.10)
IBEX	1321.54 (+10.5)
FTSE	337.5 (+15.4)
Nikkei	1585.00 (+10.0)
FT 100	2417.9 (+5.3)
FT 30	1940.5 (+4.1)
500	1321.54 (+1.93)
Gold Mines	937.8 (+15.4)
Fixed Interest	323.5 (-0.07)
Govt Secs	82.94 (-0.07)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Gold	402p (+11p)
Platinum	792p (+10p)
Wheat	281p (+10p)
Barley	275p (+10p)
Wool	772p (+11p)
Sheep	385p (+10p)
Harvey & Thompson	402p (+10p)
Concorde	180p (+11p)
Boosey & Hawkes	425p (+10p)
Campani	205p (+10p)
Radisson	610p (+14p)
Travel Group	654p (+21p)
Lucas	680p (+7p)
D Smith	345p (+8p)

FALLS

Thomson	801p (-13p)
Barr & Neill	287p (-10p)
Order Allen	450p (-10p)
Gerrard National	305p (-10p)
Brown Shipley	324p (-8p)
EIF	237p (-8p)

Closing prices

Barrat	3268p
SEAO Volume	579.7m

INTEREST RATES

Lending Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15.15%
3-month bank bills	14.15-14.25%
3-month Prime	15%
Federal Funds	5.75%
3-month Treasury	7.55-7.54%
30-year bonds	100.12-100.12

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$	\$1.6570
£/DM	2.7885
£/Sfr	2.5205
£/FF	6.5596
£/Yen	145.40
£/Indonesian	1,732
£/EGP	2.2500
£/SAR	2.2500

GOLD

London	New York
£/oz	\$412.50
£/oz	\$412.50
£/oz	\$412.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) 1990	\$21.10 bbl (\$20.20)
Densities latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.14	2.01	2.01
Belgium	61.50	57.70	57.70
Canada	1.28	1.28	1.28
Denmark	11.27	10.87	10.87
France	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany	2.37	2.37	2.37
Italy	1.36	1.36	1.36
Japan	11.13	10.83	10.83
Netherlands	2.25	2.25	2.25
Portugal	200	243	243
Spain	166	166	166
Sweden	11.25	11.25	11.25
Switzerland	2.625	2.625	2.625
Taiwan	1.732	1.732	1.732
Thailand	1.732	1.732	1.732
USA	1.657	1.657	1.657
Yugoslavia	1.732	1.732	1.732

TSB profits slashed by cost of shake-up

By Neil Bennett

Reorganization expenses and spiralling costs slashed profits at the TSB Group by almost two-thirds to £155 million last year.

money is for severance payments. The remaining £35 million will cover the reorganization of the branch network and the head office's move from London to the West Midlands.

banks. The case goes to the Court of Appeal next week. "I'm rather hot about this subject," said Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman. "I was brought up in a world where contract meant contract."

provision against Third World debts. TSB has very few of these, and its exposure has now fallen to less than £17 million, or 36 per cent of its nominal value.

by 3,600 to 45,800. The extra costs outweighed the business the bank gained in the year. The group's loan book grew by 29 per cent to £14.4 billion, while deposits grew 14 per cent to £21.5 billion.

chairman, Sir Nicholas has started a complete reorganization of the group. All the retail bank's operations have been grouped into one subsidiary, ending its previous federal structure and making it easier to manage.

Banks' £400m averts crisis at Eurotunnel

By John Bell, City Editor

Eurotunnel has confirmed that the funding crisis which threatened to halt work on the cross-Channel link is over.

these funds will be provided through a rights issue of equity or subordinated debt. A statement from Mr André Bernard and Mr Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's joint chairmen, welcomes both agreements.

satisfactorily. The key part of the project - the "target cost" - has been raised from £1.3 billion to £1.58 billion and TML has agreed to meet 30 per cent of cost overruns without limit.

Model purchase: Gino Gervasoni, president of Riva, and Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars' chief executive, yesterday



Comment

members of the TML consortium, BICC, Costain, Tarmac, Taylor Woodrow and Wimpey.

The French marine tunnel is running up to 14 weeks ahead of schedule, say the co-chairmen, but "the British marine running tunnels are only just starting to make respectable progress and are now three to four months behind schedule."

The co-chairmen say that vigorous attention will be paid to cost cutting and Eurotunnel is slicing its supervision overhead by 25 per cent.

That Rolls-Royce among power boats, the Italian-produced Riva, is being acquired by Vickers, of which Rolls-Royce Motors itself is a subsidiary.

with design contributions from Ferrari, the luxury car maker. Ferrari, Riva and Rolls-Royce have been involved for some time in a joint marketing promotion through Symbol, the quality image magazine.

Comment

The deal, under which Toyota will eventually take a controlling interest in Toyota (GB), Inchcape's Toyota-distributing subsidiary, comes as the Japanese group prepares to build its first factories in Britain, in a move expected to double Toyota sales here by 1995.

announcement. This investment, described by both parties as "symbolic" and accompanied by a standard agreement, is worth £50.4 million.

Britain, the further development of our relationship with Inchcape provides us with the strength and security essential to the success of our long-term operations in this important market."

Its offer document says that the price, 136p in cash, represents a prospective exit price/earnings multiple of about 20, based on the forecast of Hartwell's own broker.

One thing the acquisition is unlikely to bring is the use of a Rolls-Royce engine in a Riva boat. This is because a modern Rolls-Royce engine has never been adapted for marine use and the tendency now is for these engines to be designed from scratch.

Toyota to take Inchcape stake

By Michael Tate, London, and Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Toyota, Japan's biggest car manufacturer, has agreed to take a 4.7 per cent stake in Inchcape, the British distributor, as part of a £10 million deal that will cement relationships between the two groups until well into the 21st century.

Inchcape's retaining the Toyota franchise when the existing arrangements, which have been in place for 25 years, expire at the end of this year, but will also have an immediate beneficial impact on Inchcape's balance sheet.

announcement. This investment, described by both parties as "symbolic" and accompanied by a standard agreement, is worth £50.4 million.

Britain, the further development of our relationship with Inchcape provides us with the strength and security essential to the success of our long-term operations in this important market."

One thing the acquisition is unlikely to bring is the use of a Rolls-Royce engine in a Riva boat. This is because a modern Rolls-Royce engine has never been adapted for marine use and the tendency now is for these engines to be designed from scratch.

Comment

Toyota will pay £60 million for 51 per cent of Toyota (GB) during the next eight years. It will take 5 per cent in March this year, a further 20 per cent in July, 1993 and the remaining 26 per cent in January, 1998. Crucially, the entire payment will be made up front, in March.

At the same time, Toyota will subscribe for 4.7 per cent of Inchcape itself, at 287p a share, a 5 per cent discount to its market price before the

announcement. This investment, described by both parties as "symbolic" and accompanied by a standard agreement, is worth £50.4 million.

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The heat goes out of the South-east

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The number of small company receiverships in London and the South-east almost doubled in the last quarter of 1989 compared with the previous year, according to a new City survey. And the surge is likely to continue into 1990, fuelled by continuing high interest rates and the squeeze on spending.

South-east particularly, and the uniform business rate could well be a catalyst that tips borderline companies into receivership or liquidation.

But he cautioned against drawing catastrophic inferences from the sharp rise in defaults because 1988 had been a buoyant year in which many fewer companies went into receivership than normal. The rate of defaults is also still below the level in the mid-eighties.

The figures confirm that the sectors most affected have been property and retailers selling goods linked to removals, such as carpets and furniture.

It also shows that three accountancy firms have established a clear lead over all others in the receiving and managing sector. Cork Gully, the specialist division of Coopers & Lybrand, was appointed to 150 firms. Grant Thornton to 110 and Peat Marwick to 107. No other firms account for more than 70.

Comment

accountancy firm that produced the survey, said there appeared to have been a shift in receiverships towards the service sector and towards smaller firms and that few big manufacturing companies had so far been affected.

He said the upward trend in defaults was likely to continue. "Interest rates will continue to have an effect in the

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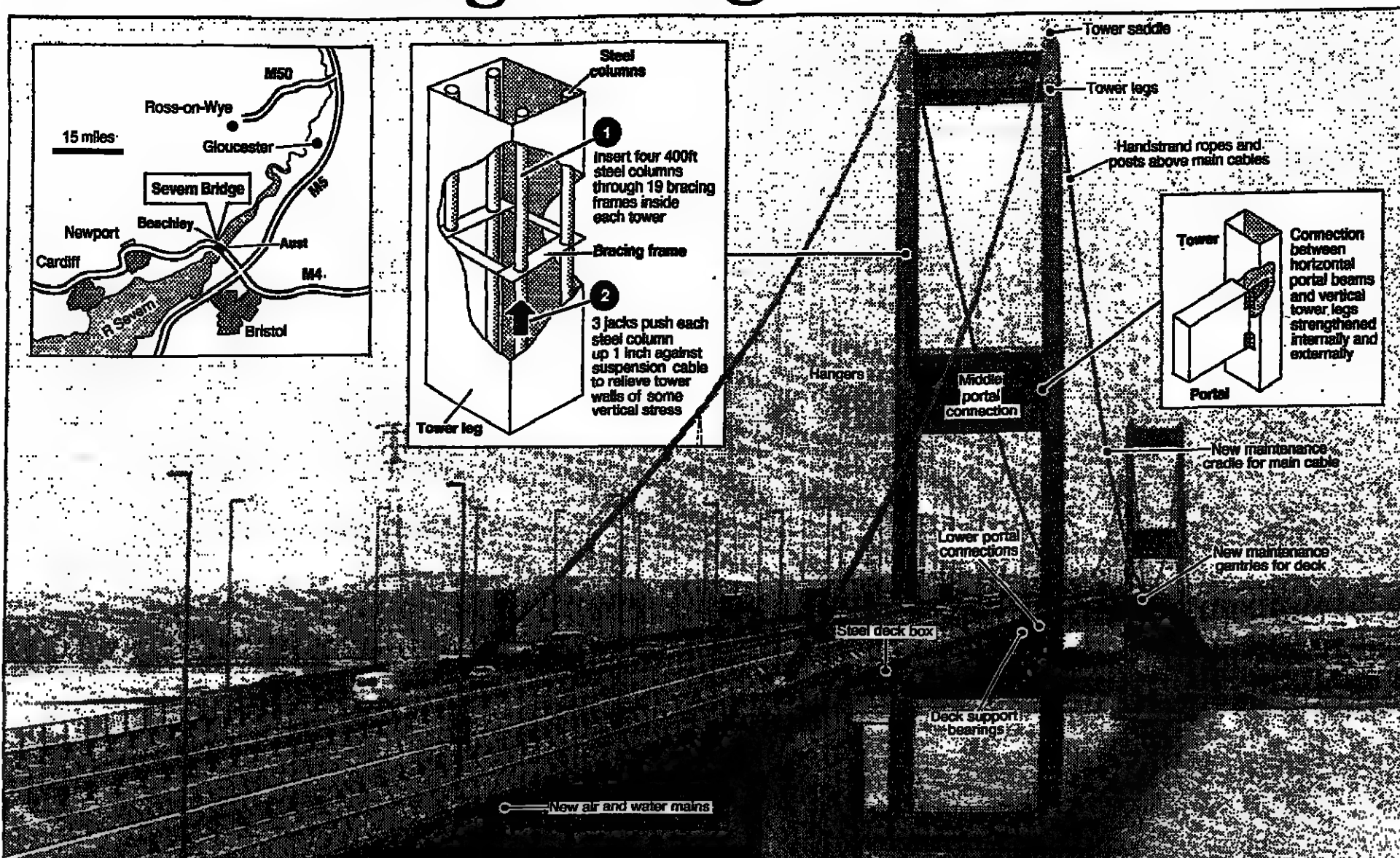
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Severn Bridge rising to new challenge



Stages in the £70 million strengthening for the Severn Bridge, which carries 50,000 vehicles on an average day. Raising the four towers by an inch is believed to be an engineering first.

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

In what is believed to be a unique engineering operation, workers last night began raising the twin towers of the Severn Bridge to allow it to take the strain of traffic increases until 2110. Over the next eight weeks, engineers will add about an inch to the four 400ft towers. It is the

final phase of a £70 million project to strengthen the 1½-mile bridge. The work has been planned to avoid disruption to traffic on the M4 carriageway linking England and Wales. The operation will bring more than 2,000 tonnes of pressure to bear across four points at the base of the towers as the top rises and the main suspension cables tighten. The lift will also decrease the downward stress on

the towers, making them more capable of coping with modern loads. Over the past two years, engineers have fitted four steel columns into each of the towers, using 48 powerful jacks at their bases. To ensure that the columns do not wobble or slide during the lift, braces have been bolted to the inside of the towers at intervals of about 20 feet. At the saddles or pinacles of the towers, steel reinforcements

will take the pressure of the rising columns and ensure that the steel rods do not burst through the top. During the operation, steel wedges will be inserted to support the jacks as the columns rise by fractions of an inch each day. When the task is completed, the jacks will be removed and the wedges will take the full force. The bridge, the world's seventh longest, was opened by the Queen in September 1966.

UDA leader 'held for questioning by Stevens'

By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Mr Tommy Lytle, the West Belfast leader of the Protestant paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, was arrested early yesterday for questioning by the Stevens inquiry, his family said.

Reports said Mr Lytle was among four "loyalists" arrested in dawn operations in Belfast by RUC officers acting on behalf of the inquiry led by Mr John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, into allegations of collu-

sion between Protestant paramilitaries and security force members.

The arrests, which official police sources refused to confirm, are the second batch this year for the Stevens team. Last week a number of "loyalists" were detained, some of whom were being charged yesterday with offences connected with alleged leaks of security documents and "associated matters".

Mr Lytle is on the UDA's so-called "inner council" and is regarded as the most influential figure in the organization.

Meanwhile, a fire which badly

damaged the headquarters of the Stevens team late on Wednesday evening was being described in some reports as an accident but there was widespread speculation that it may have been started deliberately.

The fire, at offices in the Sea Park complex at Carrickfergus, east of Belfast, was discovered at about 10.45pm. It was confined to the main operations room where files of evidence, cabinets and computer terminals were damaged or destroyed. In a statement, the police described the damage as extensive.

It said the cause was yet not

known. Stevens' officers had been in the room until 10pm when they locked it. Other members of the team who came on duty 45 minutes later discovered the fire.

In a separate statement, Mr Stevens attempted to head off the inevitable speculation about arson. He emphasized that the fire had started in a locked room and, despite the damage, "would not impede the current investigation" or the "vigorous progress of the enquiry". He said that all records and files had been duplicated.

The Stevens team has been

operating from an old factory now owned by the Northern Ireland police authority which is under permanent armed guard.

A soldier appeared before magistrates in Belfast yesterday accused of trying to murder policemen arresting of 28 Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers on behalf of the Stevens inquiry last October.

John Miskelly, aged 22, of St Leonard's Crescent, Belfast, who is a full-time soldier in the Royal Irish Rangers, is alleged to have fired shots at police. No one was injured. He was remanded in custody.

Political sketch Not to be read over breakfast

Just as the exchanges on "Mad Cow Disease" reached fever-pitch yesterday, the Prime Minister stormed in dressed in stunning purple.

It was Agriculture Questions. She settled on to the green bench like an animated submachine gun as you glowered through the keyhole. "Not today thank-you... No I'm not interested in the After-Life... Just running a bath... If I'm damned, I'm damned."

David Maclean, the junior minister, looked rattled. It was too late to stop. He was just reaching his peroration.

"And Mr Speaker," he appealed at top volume, "it was quite irrelevant whether or not the animal's head was cut off before it went into the slaughterhouse because the relevant officials (he was yelling, now) 'are removed from all the animals' heads!"

Got it? First remove heads from head: then remove head from animal.

"Hear, hear!" yelled his backbench colleagues. Mrs Thatcher looked at a tough

question, a tough because Mr Maclean had left so much unanswered. What are the "relevant officials"? What are the "irrelevant officials"?

We know where the relevant ones go. Maclean told us. It was, he said, "a belt and braces job". The "officials go into the offals bag". "That," he added, "is the braces".

Sorry, Minister, but what is the braces? Not the offals, surely? I glanced suspiciously at the elegant red braces of the magnificent Nicholas Soames (Crawley) sitting behind Mr Maclean. Soames seemed vast today, even for Soames. I looked again. It wasn't Soames. It was two thin Tories in thin red ties, sitting next to each other. I hope that's clear on TV.

For this was the first Agriculture Questions to be televised: and didn't you know it! Ms Jo Richardson drifted past in a sort of lavender veil. In the face of the advancing cameras, every citizen tumbled! This splendidly feminist Labour MP for Barking, who used to dress *à la Prisoner of Cell Block H*, now resembled some minor goddess.

As for the team of Agriculture Ministers, their boss, John Gummer, wore neat suit, white shirt, smart tie and glasses. His hair was smoothly combed. "Come on, duck-head," Dennis Skinner kept shouting at him.

David Maclean wore — you

guessed it — neat suit, white shirt, smart tie and glasses. David Curry — yes, right again. As a team, they looked like those squads of Bible-toting Seventh Day Adventists that sit at a table on your front door as you glower through the keyhole. "Not today thank-you... No I'm not interested in the After-Life... Just running a bath... If I'm damned, I'm damned."

Your sketchwriter drifted into a flight of fantasy. John Gummer was tapping on my door. Behind him, in clean white mackintoshes, were Maclean and Curry, toting clip-boards and micro-wave instruction manuals.

"No thanks. I know how to cook scrambled-egg already... What's that? Bovine Spongiform? Don't care... Look if I get Listeria, nobody's business but my own. Please go away."

Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) brought me back with a jolt to reality. She spoke, she said, for the chicken-farmers of Billericay. Ah, noble tribune!

Chickens, she continued, come with salmonella, like chickens come with feathers. So what was all the fuss?

"My hon friend," purred Maclean, "is a doughty fighter for the chicken-industry." Look good on a gravestone, wouldn't it?

TERESA GORMAN
1941-2041

MP for Billericay and Doughty Fighter for the Chicken Industry.

'And all the trumpets sounded on the other side.'

Agriculture is off to a confident start for the 1990s.

On Health, the jury is still out. "Ignorant twat!" shouted Labour's Andrew Faulds, later, as Kenneth Clarke defended his handling of the ambulance dispute.

"Mr Deputy Speaker, is 'ignorant twat' a parliamentary expression?" asked Jerry Hayes (C, Harlow), in a voluble form. Earlier when a letter from 1978 outlining Mrs Thatcher's definition of "emergency services" was attributed directly to her, Hayes was on his feet. "That was written by Matthew Parris," he protested.

"Where is he?" came the cry. Where indeed!

Matthew Parris

Union fear as ambulance crews strike

Continued from page 1
dispute." Mr Poole said: "I know they are angry but we are going to win this dispute by exercising the power of the people."

With crews in Hampshire also planning to hold a series of 24-hour strikes the leadership knows that the overwhelming public support it

enjoys could be seriously undermined.

At first, crews at four West Sussex stations, Crawley, East Grinstead, Horsham and Littlehampton walked out on strike. The crews at Horsham and Littlehampton later returned to report for limited duty within TUC guidelines.

Mr Andy Lawrence, spokes-

man for the ambulance workers at Crawley, said six 999 calls had been put through to the station during the morning but crews had refused to deal with them. "They were told their pay would be stopped so we walked out."

Mr Alan Randall, district general manager for the Worthing health authority, which covers the area's ambulance service, said: "We condemn this action. It is unjustified."

After the London sit-in, Mr Crosby accused the unions of trying to take over the control room at the headquarters.

Army ambulances were called out in Surrey and Essex and were also ready for action in Oxfordshire.

Gorbachov puts his case to Lithuania

Continued from page 1
in Vilnius towards midday and did not attend the rally, is visiting Lithuania in an attempt to solve the impasse created by Lithuania's decision to create a Communist Party independent from Moscow.

On one of his new traditional walkabouts, he urged Lithuanians to relinquish their suspicion of Moscow and remain within a reformed Soviet Union.

He suggested that on the question of the Lithuanian party's independence, his mind was made up, but that there was room for a degree of flexibility. "I'm not going to change my attitude and position," he told the crowd. "We

have to modernize the cultural, political and economic ties between our different republics instead of just destroying everything. Therefore we need a totally different federation where political sovereignty is fully guaranteed."

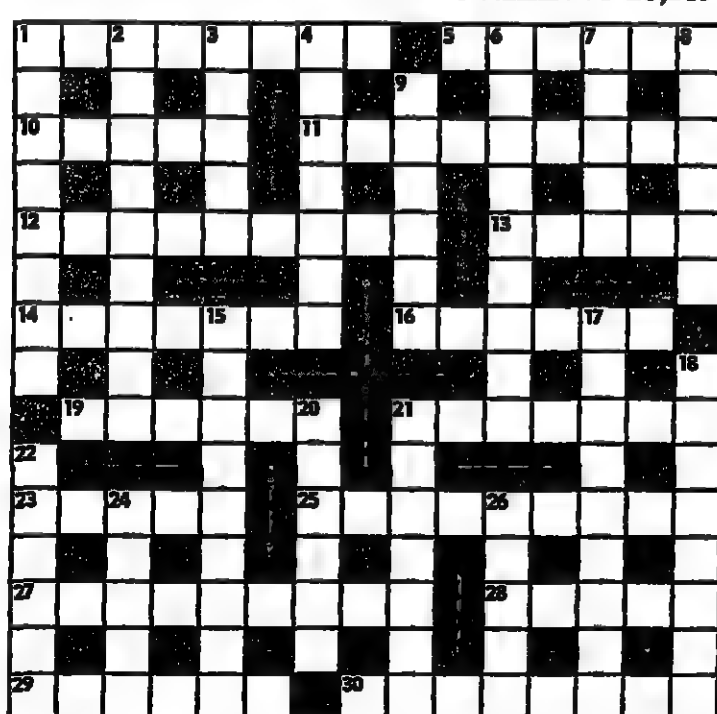
"If we give you economic independence and you suddenly switch on to world

market prices you'll end up in a muddle," he said.

Although the Soviet leader's arrival had been postponed for a day and the time of his arrival had not been announced, huge crowds gathered in the city centre.

Mr Gorbachov and his wife Raisa laid flowers at the foot of a statue of Lenin.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,189



- ACROSS**
- Report one new bird — a peacock (8).
 - Monarch's telegraphic message for sailor (6).
 - A ringleader in plot is revealed (5).
 - Change partners, since in vehicle (9).
 - Girl with long way to go in high-class university set (3-6).
 - Poet has Goldsmith's material to study (5).
 - Some players on leave (7).
 - Voice, possibly, I have on legislation (6).
 - Start to grow one inside, yielding plenty (6).
 - Jack leading heroic characters into walked town (7).
 - Name in order, alphabetically (5).
 - Craft are moored in a landing-place (9).
 - Mr Winkle, for example, is a master of the dramatic bon-mot (9).
- DOWN**
- Host removed, so to speak, from party in US (8).
 - Social barrier that divides neighbours (3,4).
 - Jog, like a streaker, around midnight (5).
 - One related, say, information that produces defensive reaction (7).
 - Transient changes immediately resulting (9).
 - Not a main thoroughfare? It is in Oxford (5).
 - More or less dotty cloak (6).
 - Means for producing pictures occurred to artist (6).
 - Hated new carriage creating dangerous situation (5-4).
 - Wies against one hundred politicians (9).
 - Divinity can be puzzle, I assume (8).
 - Calamitous end of aircraft shown by rising smoke (6).
 - Various creatures Alice upset in trying circumstances (7).
 - Disorder occurs in plant (6).
 - Reduce the glare (5).
 - Latecomer's last in joint effort (5).

The solution to Puzzle No 18,188 will appear on Monday, January 22

Concise Crossword, page 20

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

DIRCAEAN SWAN

- Virgil
- Pindar
- Heiod
- PRINCE FLORIZEL
- George IV
- Oscar Wilde
- The Young Pretender
- LAST OF THE ROMANS
- Julian the Apostate
- Benjamin
- Manueline

ANSWERS on page 20

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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford: 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T. M23: 734
M25 London Orbital only: 735
M25 London Orbital only: 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways: 737
West Country: 738
Wales: 739
Midlands: 740
East Anglia: 741
North-east England: 742
North-west England: 743
Scotland: 744
Northern Ireland: 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Weather
London: 15-20; 16-21; 17-22; 18-23; 19-24; 20-25; 21-26; 22-27; 23-28; 24-29; 25-30; 31-31; 32-32; 33-33; 34-34; 35-35; 36-36; 37-37; 38-38; 39-39; 40-40; 41-41; 42-42; 43-43; 44-44; 45-45; 46-46; 47-47; 48-48; 49-49; 50-50; 51-51; 52-52; 53-53; 54-54; 55-55; 56-56; 57-57; 58-58; 59-59; 60-60; 61-61; 62-62; 63-63; 64-64; 65-65; 66-66; 67-67; 68-68; 69-69; 70-70; 71-71; 72-72; 73-73; 74-74; 75-75; 76-76; 77-77; 78-78; 79-79; 80-80; 81-81; 82-82; 83-83; 84-84; 85-85; 86-86; 87-87; 88-88; 89-89; 90-90; 91-91; 92-92; 93-93; 94-94; 95-95; 96-96; 97-97; 98-98; 99-99; 100-100; 101-101; 102-102; 103-103; 104-104; 105-105; 106-106; 107-107; 108-108; 109-109; 110-110; 111-111; 112-112; 113-113; 114-114; 115-115; 116-116; 117-117; 118-118; 119-119; 120-120; 121-121; 122-122; 123-123; 124-124; 125-125; 126-126; 127-127; 128-128; 129-129; 130-130; 131-131; 132-132; 133-133; 134-134; 135-135; 136-136; 137-137; 138-138; 139-139; 140-140; 141-141; 142-142; 143-143; 144-144; 145-145; 146-146; 147-147; 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Southern 'not worried' by 13% MAM stake

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Mr William Courtney, chairman of Southern Water, said he was not concerned at the 13 per cent stake held by MAM, a subsidiary of SG Warburg Group, whose securities business was broken up by the Government for water privatization and played the leading role, through its market-making operations, in breaking up the packages of water shares initially sold to financial institutions.

Southern will, however, send out statutory notices to find out who its shareholders are once an up-to-date share register is received, probably at the end of January.

Yorkshire Water, in which MAM has an 8 per cent stake, said it did not know if other substantial stakes had been bought. But it would find out who its leading shareholders were and approach pension funds and insurance companies from February to try to build a relationship and create loyalty.

MAM is the 75 per cent

owned investment subsidiary of SG Warburg Group, whose securities business was broken up by the Government for water privatization and played the leading role, through its market-making operations, in breaking up the packages of water shares initially sold to financial institutions.

Although MAM has acquired stakes in all 10 water groups on behalf of various clients, its buying has concentrated on those thought by some to be the targets of the three big French water groups. It has a 10 per cent combined holding in Wessex, where Compagnie Lyonnaise des Eaux bought 6 per cent, as well as 7 per cent of Anglian, where Lyonnaise owns 9 per cent.

It has also bought 10 per cent of Northumbrian, in whose region Lyonnaise has

large interests, but where the French group did not buy shares just after flotation. Mr David Cranston, finance director of Northumbrian, also said his company was relaxed about the MAM stake.

There was also speculation that Yorkshire and South West, where MAM has accumulated 10 per cent, were targets of Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the biggest French water group. The third, Saur, bought control of three private water companies in the Southern area, in which Southern picked up blocking 25 per cent minority stakes.

Since then, however, Saur and Southern have come together in Stalwart Environmental Services, which has bid for local authority waste disposal contracts.

Four more of the privatized

water groups - Southern, Yorkshire, South West and Northumbrian - reported profits for the six months to end-September, before the capital re-organization and privatization, and all said they were on target to meet prospectus profit forecasts.

Southern recorded after-interest profits of £24.4 million, equivalent to £38.3 million, or 23.4p per share, after the capital reorganization. Extraordinary privatization costs were £3.4 million.

Meanwhile, Yorkshire made £17.4 million before extraordinary costs of £5.3 million.

South West made £17.8 million before extraordinary costs of only £1.5 million and Northumbrian recorded £3.8 million before privatization costs of £2.5 million.

Pact for hotel group is rejected

By Stephen Leather

Lady (Eileen) Joseph has suggested a compromise pact to resolve the struggle for control of Norfolk Capital, the hotel group in which she holds a crucial 7 per cent stake.

Balmoral, the recently-formed international hotels group based in Edinburgh, wants Norfolk's shareholders to elect three of its executives to the main board and to force the managing director, Mr Peter Eyles, to resign.

Lady Joseph, widow of Sir Max Joseph and followed by many of Norfolk's 20,000 small shareholders, has instead suggested that Balmoral's managing director, Mr Peter Eyles, join the board and work with Mr Eyles.

However, the suggestion, by Lady Joseph and Mr Tony Good, a director controlling about 3 per cent of Norfolk equity, has been vehemently rejected by both sides.

Mr Tyrie, who built up Gleneagles Hotels in Scotland and the Mandarin Oriental group in the Far East, said that Mr Eyles's resignation was necessary for the restructuring of Norfolk Capital.

Norfolk's chairman, Mr Tony Richmond-Watson, said that Mr Tyrie could become an active competitor, and that he and Mr Eyles considered Lady Joseph's idea as "totally impracticable".

Mr Tyrie wants shareholders to appoint himself and his colleagues, Mr Michael Williams and Mr Colin Wearmouth, to the board so that they can turn Norfolk into a five-star hotel group, without a full takeover bid, and sell its non-core public house and leisure interests.

Mr Tyrie said: "We have identified that there are a lot of assets in Norfolk which largely don't work for the shareholder."

Balmoral, with almost 13 per cent, is Norfolk's biggest shareholder. Norfolk shareholders will vote on Mr Tyrie's proposals at a meeting on January 29.

The Balmoral men are in London making presentations to institutions, who hold some 60 per cent of Norfolk's equity. They are also telephoning small shareholders.

Mr Richmond-Watson said: "The management of a listed company by another company is entirely inappropriate."

Balmoral hopes to persuade shareholders to pay a £500,000 annual fee, and performance-based payments of up to £7 million.

COMMENT

The lesson to be learned from Eurotunnel agony

It has been easy for those who hanker for a return of corporatism Britain to find a failure of private enterprise in the tribulations of Eurotunnel. The costs of the project have spiralled, progress has been slower than expected and there have even been suggestions that it may fail altogether. These depressing facts have a familiar ring to those who recall the fate of some recent large-scale publicly financed projects - the nuclear power station programme has contained some prime examples. Yet the highly public and acrimonious dispute over costs between Eurotunnel, which has the concession to operate the project, and Transmanche Link, the construction consortium building it, is evidence that the discipline of the market place, far from failing, is alive and working.

It is hardly surprising that the original estimates for the cost and duration of a pioneering infrastructure project, with no easy examples to copy, should have gone astray. The correctness of the decision to award the concession to privately funded interests will be measured against their response to these initial setbacks. Yesterday's agreements between Eurotunnel, its bankers and TML are encouraging on that score.

They show that the completion date of June 1993 is still intact, that the dispute between TML and Eurotunnel, barring some matters sent for arbitration, has been largely resolved and that the cost overruns, however unpleasant for shareholders, remain fundable within the normal commercial criteria of some hard-nosed bankers.

The accord between TML and Eurotunnel is complex. It does remove the cap on tunnelling costs which abolished TML from a share of the pain above a 6 per cent overrun. But there is a sliding scale which appears to benefit TML if tunnelling costs emerge at the lower end of the range. Over all, the new arrangement provides incentive for TML to keep costs down and penalizes it if they escalate.

The lump sum works, such as terminals and railways, are still subject to arbitration.

Warning signs for Major

The sharp rise in receiverships is as graphic evidence as any that the credit squeeze is working, and of exactly how it is working. Receiverships accelerated sharply in the fourth quarter, rising more than 70 per cent against the comparable quarter of 1988 compared with a 38 per cent rise over the year as a whole. The figure for London and the South-east, which accounted for more than half the total receiverships, was up 94 per cent in the last quarter against 52 per cent for the year. By contrast, there were actually fewer receiverships in the year in Scotland and the South-west and the total was little changed in the North-west.

If this is a big, painful shakeout, it is at least a healthy one. Leaner, fitter

manufacturers have fared relatively well, while service industries in the overcooked South-east, notably property and retailers of carpets, furniture and the like, have suffered most.

Tim Hayward, of Peat Marwick McLintock, who produced the comprehensive survey, says things are still getting worse, but are nowhere near as bad as in the mid-Eighties and largely affect smaller firms from an abundant new crop.

The message is clear. Little irreparable damage has so far been done by the squeeze, which looks a reasonable cost for cutting inflation. But the warning signs are there that the Chancellor should not squeeze a moment longer than necessary.

'Squeeze on inflation postponed'

The squeeze on companies necessary to reduce inflation has been postponed, probably until after the next election, and the permitted fall in sterling has undermined government policy against inflation, says Mr Donald Franklin, chief economist of Schroders.

In the bank's latest *Economic Perspective*, he writes that the pound could prove vulnerable this year, if interest rates are lowered.

James Capel, the broker, says in its January economic assessment that the 6 per cent fall in sterling's effective exchange rate since Mr Nigel Lawson's resignation could hardly have come at a worse time for inflation.

Norex link

Norex has become part of a European network of insurance brokers placing risks for multinational companies. Its Lloyd's broking arm has joined a consortium of French, Italian and Dutch groups.

BP steel order

BP has ordered 30,000 tonnes of steel plate worth £15 million from British Steel to build gasfield sea glassfarms.

In the black

Multitone Electronics has turned a loss of £290,000 into a pre-tax profit of £73,000. Sales rose to £10.1 million.

NatWest eyes EC targets

By Neil Bennett



On the look-out: Lord Alexander, chairman of NatWest

Lord Alexander of Wealden, chairman of National Westminster Bank, says the bank is looking for acquisitions or joint ventures in Europe in preparation for 1992.

In his first public appearance since taking over last October, he announced in a speech in Brussels that the bank wanted to expand its operations in the EC. It is looking at alliances and marketing agreements as well as outright acquisitions. He stressed, however, that the search was at an early stage and refused to reveal any possible targets.

Mr John Tagwell, the bank's international business chief executive, said the NatWest was more interested in taking stakes in broad-based financial service companies than acquiring a retail bank.

Lord Alexander was in Brussels on a two-day visit to talk to Sir Leon Brittan, the competition and financial services commissioner, and other commission officials about Europe's banking industry.

NatWest already has one of the most advanced European networks of any British bank, employing more than 1,000 people in 10 of the 12 EC member states.

The chairman also said he supported Britain's entry into the EC's exchange rate mechanism, and that the question should be resolved sooner rather than later.

But he called for a reduction in interest rates to bring them into line with Europe before this could be achieved.

Daily Mail Trust reports £113.3m

By Colin Campbell

Costs of moving from Fleet Street to new editorial and printing premises, coupled with other reorganizations, cost The Daily Mail and General Trust a gross £75.4 million in the year ended September 30.

Daily Mail and General Trust, owner of two national newspapers and other local papers and now remodelled as a company following its earlier acquisition of Associated Newspapers Holdings, shows pre-tax profits of £113.3 million.

For the year ended September on a turnover of £592.4 million. A final dividend of 75p will be paid, making 100p. Comparative figures are meaningless.

Comparative figures are, however, given for Associated Newspapers Holdings group and show a trading profit of £63.4 million (£60.2 million) from continuing activities' turnover of £613.1 million (£543.5 million).

The Daily Mail and General Trust's trading profit of £56.9

million was made up of profits of £60.4 million from newspapers and magazines less a debit of £3.5 million from other activities.

Exceptional items totalled £60.3 million - made up of a £181.9 million profit on the sale of investments but offset by reorganization and redundancy costs of £75.4 million, a £29.7 million write-down on investments, and a £16.5 million debit covering special pension contributions.

The year's total dividend of

100p compares with a previous total payment of 75p a share.

The group added that circulation of the Daily Mail was "slightly down" year on year but was holding up well, while circulation of the Mail on Sunday remained in an upward trend.

Control of the Daily Mail and General Trust lies with the Harmsworth family, holding 72 per cent of the votes. The non-voting shares rose by £1 to £61 each.

Stingy Rowe row bubbles on

City gents have been grumbling into their champagne glasses after learning that Rowe & Pitman had quibbled with the all-too-modest request for a case of champagne from Martin Ritchie, the young chartered surveyor who found - and returned - bonds to the value of £4 million. Indeed, Simon Hughes, the Member of Parliament for Bournemouth, yesterday tabled an early day motion to "commend" his honesty and to "urge" Rowe & Pitman to give him "a reward slightly more appropriate to the amount of money he saved them." He suggested a figure of £2,500, to cover Ritchie's overdraft, while a leading loss adjuster suggested that 10 per cent of the amount recovered was the norm. Rowe & Pitman sent Ritchie, who works for Baker, Hatris, Saunders, in Gutter Lane, a mere mugshot of Laurent Perrier. But now, by way of a gesture, and in order to uphold the Square Mile's reputation for fostering an old-fashioned sense of style, a rival securities house - rumoured to be County NatWest WoodMac - has dispatched to his office the other 10 bottles of champagne necessary to at least fulfil Ritchie's original request for a case.

Life must be getting tough in the City. A pin-striped gent at a Tube station in the Square Mile was overheard asking the ticket office clerk: "Is there such a thing as a cheap single?"

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

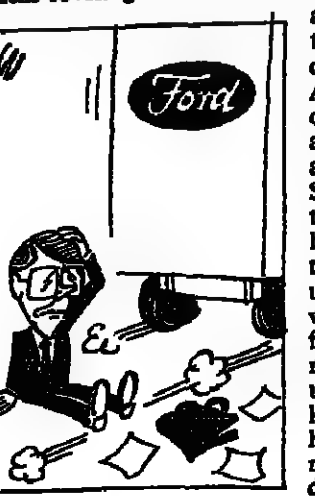
Global job for Lyon

Peter Lyon, a director at County NatWest WoodMac, responsible for asset allocation at County NatWest Investment Management for the past five years, has resigned and will be joining Smith New Court - as its global strategist - at the beginning of March. Lyon, aged 49, and also once head of research at Vickers, before it merged with Scrimgeour, is described as a "very important appointment" by Mike Unsworth, head of research at SNC. "We appointed Paul Walton, from Warburgs, as our UK strategist and Peter completes the picture. He will

pull together all our strategic thoughts and liaise with Roger Nightingale, our chief international economist. Outside the US, we now research and trade in every major market in the world - and most of the minor ones as well." Meanwhile SNC has also just started its own smaller companies unit - by recruiting analysts Mary Fleming and Alastair Irving, and specialist salesman Owen Smythe, all from ANZ-McCannan. They started on Monday. "Although we have a lot of corporate clients in this area, it is a new area for us," says Unsworth.

Double trouble

Tired and emotional financial hacks covering the YJ Lovell



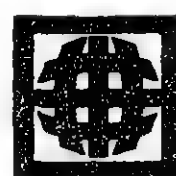
Settled over a drink

The saga of Daniel Jeffreys' dinner suit looks like reaching a happier conclusion than that of his £5,000 car parking bill. Following the revelation in the City Diary about the £400 hire fees outstanding on the white-tie suit - since it was hired in October and has yet to be returned - Jeffreys, in his first week as Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers' UK equity strategist, tells me that he has since spoken to Sidney Lipman, who owns the hire shop. "He told me that because I was such a nice man, if I brought a bottle of champagne, and drank it with him, he was sure that we would be able to reach an amicable agreement," Jeffreys says. "I suggested vintage Bollinger but he insisted that it had to be Dom Perignon (£68 a bottle)." Jeffreys claims that the situation over the dinner suit arose because "my ex-girlfriend promised to take it back to the hire and then failed to do so." However, his private life seems to be in a little bit of a tangle at the moment. For the said girlfriend tells me that she was in fact Jeffreys' fiancée until just 10 days ago.

An interesting snippet of information: James Capel, referred to in passing in yesterday's City Diary story about Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers as leading the field with 6 per cent of the UK equity business, tells me that that figure is now somewhat out of date. "We now have 9 per cent," a spokesman tells me happily.

Carol Leonard

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



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December 1989

Salomon buying helps lift prices

- **Sydney** — The All-Ordinaries index closed 5.9 up at 1,695.6.
- **Frankfurt** — The DAX index ended 16.20 higher at 1,855.83.
- **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index lost 12.48 to 2,855.52. The Hong Kong index shed 8.16 to 1,874.16.
- **Singapore** — The revamped Straits Times industrial index lost 3.45 to 1,566.07.

ICI fell 8p to £11.82 in the wake of a sell recommendation by Smith New Court. The group aims to counter falling chemical sales with a reduction in operating costs. Laporte, the specialist chemicals group, jumped 8p to 511p following a presentation in the City for analysts and fund managers.

Next, the troubled retailer, has been friendless since the departure of Mr George Davies and the heavy provisions later on. The price rose 4½p to 100½p following a meeting with a broker where Next indicated the dividend should be maintained. The shares could

met Hoylake's lawyers to discuss the leaking of a controversial memo which detailed ways of thwarting last year's £13 billion bid from Sir James Goldsmith's consortium.

BAT. Meanwhile, they continue to hold a near-30 per cent stake in Banks Hovis P&L

The water companies feasted with another clutch of year figures — mostly in line with market expectations from Southern Water, unchanged at 159p, Yorkshire Water, 168p, Northumbrian, 2p better at 179p and the West, 4½p better at 183½p.

the other water stocks also recovered from a hesitant start. A Anglian 4p higher at 157p, North West 4p at 157p, Mer Trent unchanged at 149p, after 149p, Thames 3½p

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SETTLEMENT
April 17
Blackwood Lodge, Buia, Hu-Swift,
Regentcrest, Summer Intri.


Elsewhere in the retail sector, Dixons slipped 4p to 134p as the word went round that Kingfisher's £568 million bid would be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Securiguard, the security and industrial cleaning services group, jumped 16p to 276p, supported by a bullish circular from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker. The City has also given its approval to the group's \$17 million (£10.3 million) acquisition of Madison, the US building services group.

Dewey Warren, the shell company quoted on the USM, soared 12p to 127p after announcing that it was in bid talks with a number of companies. Dewey, which in November called off its £20 million reverse takeover of the Robert Fraser financial services group, hopes to have a deal lined up within four weeks. Dewey used to be the

Dewey's shareholders include the Kuwait Investment Office which has 30 per cent.

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OF
THE DOG

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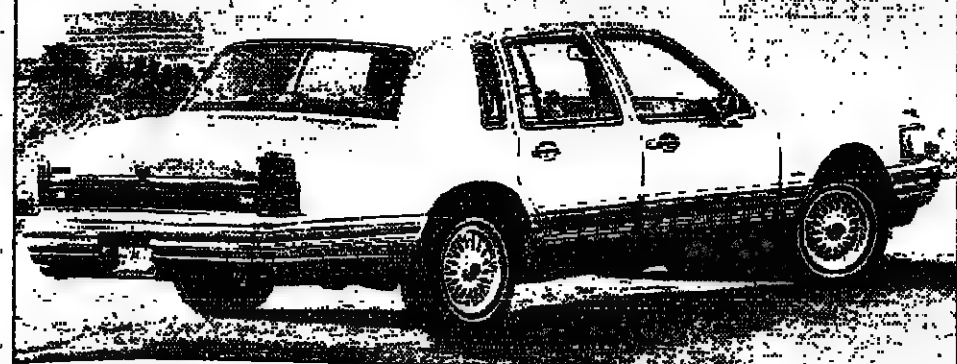
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100	Genoa Trent	143	145	++		21.0	13.4		3.6
100	Glenn Water	162	163			21.0	13.4		3.6
100	South West	175	161			21.0	13.4		3.6
100	Thames Water	129	170			21.0	13.4		3.6
100	Welsh Water	165	165			21.0	13.4		3.6
100	Wessex Water	160	162			21.0	13.4		3.6
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MOTORING

Japan struts its stuff

Talk at America's top motor show was of the lead another country has taken in innovative design and, now, sales. Daniel Ward, in Detroit, finds out why



Is length synonymous with luxury? The Lincoln has the status, but not all the top features

All flash, no finesse

For the price of a Rover Sterling in America you could own the latest Lincoln Town Car, an old-fashioned big brother to the impressive Lincoln Continental. The Town Car is proof that rich Americans will always need a huge car to let everyone know they are rich. A Japanese model simply will not do. Americans love Hondas but size means status, so the 1987 3in Lincoln has an obvious appeal. This gas guzzler is longer than its predecessor.

It may have neat curves where once there were fins and acres of chrome, but the Town Car is dated under that new skin. As one of the last cars to boast a separate trunk, it also has such unlikely luxury car features as rear drum brakes and a crude rear axle. It is one car the Japanese would not attempt to copy.

There is a presidential air to this limousine as it waffles gently along at a steady speed. The V8 engine is capable of

The Lincoln is a long stretch from a European luxury car, but they love it in the States

drawing close to two tons of mass away from traffic lights. It has no more power, however, than a European 2 litre. From the driver's seat of a Rolls-Royce there is an impressive lofty view of the world, but the Lincoln owner has to make do with slumping low on an uncomfortable leather-on-leather plastic seat. All that is missing are the star-spangled banners.

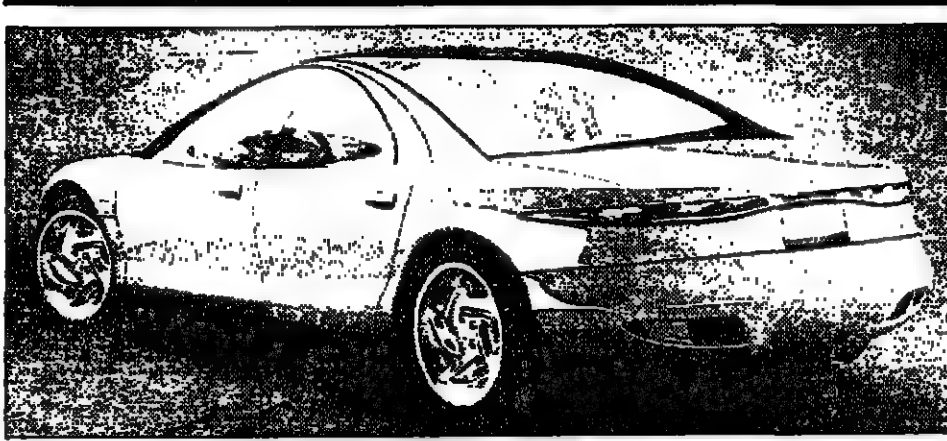
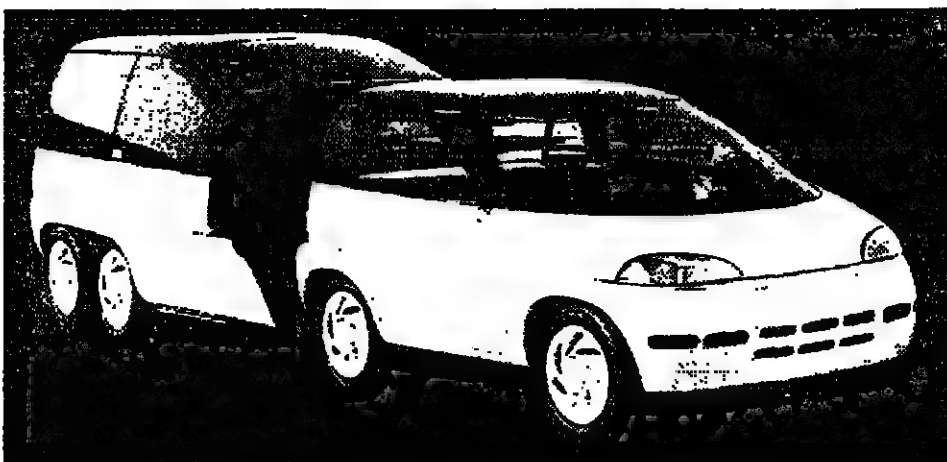
Driving the Lincoln briskly is not the nightmare of feather-light steering and spongy suspension that might be expected. Agile it certainly is not, yet the Town Car floats along quite happily without being in danger of tipping film

stars in the back seat on to the carpet. There have been improvements but everything is relative.

The American penchant for "stretched" limousines is due, in part, to the disappointing lack of room in the back of Detroit's large cars. The Town Car is wide enough to take six. You could not claim that the Lincoln was expensive, but if the makers did save any money, it must have been on the interior, which is hard to recognize as different from the brash, glitzy offerings of the 1960s. The driver is presented with an acre of chrome switches and levers, all housed in cheap "wood effect" metal.

To underline the chasm between European and Japanese luxury cars and those from Detroit, an American car magazine has just voted the Lincoln Town Car, car of the year. America is a long way from ending its love affair with big, flash cars.

Daniel Ward



Future concepts: Voyager III (top) and the Ford Mercury Cyclone give a taste of things to come

gas guzzlers at a time when the CAFE minimum is about to be significantly increased. Baseball fans would call that a home run for the Japanese.

Against this background, the launch of the new Ford Escort was a significant event, as it gave the company an up-to-date economical model to offset some of the big V8 powered cars. The Escort is now much longer and wider than its European sister model. However, the most

significant point is that the new car was largely designed by Mazda. The Japanese firm also set up one of the two plants that will make the Escort, for many years a best seller in America.

When a Chrysler executive introduced a stunning new sports car at the show, he added honestly that he was sorry his firm had not produced it. It came from Mitsubishi — only the badges were changed. The Japanese

will never bother to compete with Detroit in the traditional large car sector. General Motors introduced the new Chevrolet Caprice, with enough seats for six. The distance from the rear wheels to the bumper is a match for a double-decker bus. The survival of the car-like live axle in the 1990s is remarkable.

Chuck Jordan, Cadillac's chief designer, says there are less customers for the GM division, so the Aurora con-

cept car was aimed at a younger buyer. It is planned for production in the mid-1990s, but it is very hard to see how today's Cadillac owners would swap their chrome and acres of sheet metal for something so understated and compact.

The Detroit show's best concept car was wholly impractical, yet represents an innovative approach to coping with crowded roads. Chrysler's Voyager III is two vehicles in one. The front half is a three-seater micro-computer car powered by a propane 1.6 litre engine.

Behind the small car is the rear module, which cannot be operated separately but can be locked on to the front. When it docks, the rear wheels of the micro car are electrically withdrawn like an aircraft pulling up its undercarriage. In total, there are eight seats. The rear section has its own engine which is electronically linked to the front unit.

The Voyager highlights a way in which one-car families can have a compact shopping car for city use and then a full-size car for holidays and outings.

Nissan's small pickup, the Gobi, was styled in America by the Japanese firm's US designers. So why can't American stylists produce better cars? The Nissan Gobi was fun and fresh with an unusual elliptical cab. Alongside the Gobi, many of Detroit's ideas seemed dated before the public had even seen them.

The exception was Ford's handsome Mercury Cyclone. Perhaps heavily influenced by Ford's Italian Ghia studio, it was, nevertheless, a clever and exciting four-seater rather than brash like the Pontiac counterpart.

The Cyclone's glass roof has an electrochromic layer which can be changed from transparent to opaque by adjusting an electrical current. Such a development could make the glass roof practical.

Lotus and Aston Martin launched the new Elan and Virage respectively for the American market and Rover unveiled its Oxford Edition Sterling.

'The Nissan Gobi was fun and fresh. Alongside it, many of Detroit's ideas seemed dated before the public had even seen them'

THE LATEST FROM THE LAND OF STARS AND STRIPES

The need to depress the clutch before turning the ignition key is now a feature of many American cars with manual gearboxes. Similarly, automatic cars will only start when the brake pedal is pressed by the driver.

Central locking on American Ford is no longer optional. It is now a standard feature, following many attacks on lone drivers. An assailant could crouch out of sight on the far side of car and

slip into the rear seat when the doors were unlocked.

Some Detroit petrol stations have acted against motorists who drive off without paying, by demanding the money first.

Air bags are fitted on many new American cars in preference to the cheaper, but increasingly questioned, seat belts. The diagonal part of the belt around the front seat occupant when the door has

been closed. One of the two systems is now mandatory in America. Ford and Chrysler are to fit air bags progressively to all models.

American car manufacturers estimate it would cost \$7.5 billion (about £3.6 billion) a year to comply with the Clean Air Act currently being discussed by the United States Congress. Yet it is claimed the measures will improve air quality by less than 2 per cent.

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2024 J

Qadir is sent into Test exile as two old friends fall out

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES: AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND MAY JOIN FORCES

Billy is making up for lost time

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
Sydney

"And the winner of the gold medal is William 'Billy' Jones." The stadium applauded and Britain's discovery of a potential successor to Sebastian Coe enjoyed his moment of glory.

He would have enjoyed it more had he been introduced by his correct name: seven years after his European junior 800 metres triumph, Billy is still struggling to establish his identity.

He never caught up with Coe, but has one last chance to do so, if not justifying the plans of 1983, in just over a fortnight's time Billy lines up for his debut in a senior international championship, while Coe prepares to take his bow. The Commonwealth Games in Auckland bring together Billy and Coe as England colleagues.

At least there are signs that the Billy of 1983, when he was the world's top-ranked junior, and 1984, when he won the Bisset Games in Oslo and consistently ran 1min 44sec to 1min 45sec, is returning.

An injury which he attributes to his attempt to profit from his "next Coe" reputation expunged three years of a promising career. "In 1984 I ran 46 races when in normal circumstances I would have run 10," Billy, looking relaxed at the England training camp in Narrabeen, just outside Manly, said yesterday.

"That's what messed up my make - a disease in the bone from over-use. Money, TV, you name it, I was influenced by it. I was 19 and it was good fun to race everywhere, but it was a big mistake. It set me back three years and, though I ran in 1988, it was a waste of time because I wasn't fit."

"1989 was the first year I enjoyed for five years and everything has picked up in the last few weeks. Coe is the best athlete we have ever had in Britain but he's going to get so many favours from me. The way I'm running at the moment I'm going to surprise a few people and I reckon I've got a good chance of winning."

Apart from Coe, there is Tom McKean, the World Cup winner of Scotland, and the other significant matter of three Kenyans. "We are looking at golds in every event from 400 metres up and one-two-three in the 800 metres," the leading coach to the Kenyan team said in a television documentary recently.

"I can't see that with the likes of Coe, McKean and myself around," Billy said. "A lot has been said about the Kenyans but I see the biggest threat to me as being Coe and McKean."

If Billy sounds arrogant, suggesting that Coe and McKean are a threat to him rather than he is, with a best time of 1min 44.65sec he has the right to suggest that victory is within him.

His problem, he says, is concentration. "My weakness is that I don't pay attention. I always, always stay off the pace but I'm one of the fastest finishers."

"When McKean beat Erem [the Olympic champion] at Crystal Palace my last lap was just as fast as his but I was off the pace and wasn't prepared for them to go. At the Commonwealth Games I will just go with it and stay there."

Billy's World Student Games silver medal and his victory in the AAA championship last year were testaments to his return to the fringes of world class.

The 1990 model, at the age of 26 this month, is the same determined version it was in 1983. Only the name has changed.

Auckland meeting will be prelude to a drug-testing pact

By John Goodbody

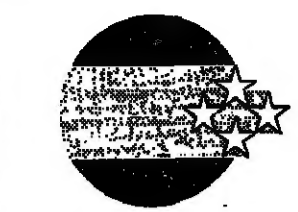
New Zealand and Australia have confirmed that they are joining forces to fight drug abuse in sport in the first step towards a Commonwealth-wide pact.

A meeting of Commonwealth sports ministers in Auckland in February after the Games, will consider a three-pronged proposal drawn up by New Zealand, Australian, Canadian and British sports and medical administrators last year.

However, New Zealand and Australian officials have reiterated that they are keen to set up their own agreement as soon as possible.

Matt Marshall, director of the New Zealand Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association's medical commission, said that nothing would be agreed "there and then" at the February meeting. "There was a suggestion of a quadrilateral arrangement and it will probably eventually come off. But, in my view, it would be more sensible initially for New Zealand to enter into a bilateral agreement with our nearest neighbours, Australia."

The drug-testing programme's three points are education, out-of-competition testing, and legislation. Under the draft agreement among the four nations, all athletes in



Olympic sports would have to consent to testing outside competitions or face a ban. New Zealand officials could ask their counterparts in Australia to test New Zealand competitors training across there. At present, competitors can escape local testing by going abroad. The agreement could also allow New Zealand to seek tests on specific Australian competitors - and vice versa - if there was any suspicion they were using banned substances.

Asked when the New Zealand-Australia agreement could be signed, Marshall said: "The Australians are very keen and we are very keen, and hopefully it will be a few months after the Games." The climate is particularly suitable at the moment for action to be taken. Australia has recently become concerned about the problems of drug-taking following a Government inquiry into the subject. A 520-page interim report of a commission chaired by Senator John Black, who had powers to force individuals to be interviewed or face penalties, has already detailed how widespread the problem has been.

Canada has also had the Dublin investigation, set up after Ben Johnson tested positive at the Seoul Olympics. Its recommendations to the Canadian Government are expected to be published within the next two months.

In Britain, the Government is expected to announce this month that it will be the first country in the Commonwealth to make the possession of anabolic steroids, the muscle-building drug, a criminal offence unless the individual has a valid medical prescription. Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, who is scheduled to attend the meeting in Auckland, is well known for his opposition to drug-taking in sport, while this week the Sports Council announced it was setting up its own investigation into drug-taking in weightlifting.

In principle, any agreement could develop into a pact for the whole Commonwealth. But Marshall said this could present problems, as many countries had different penalties and many did not have life bans for competitors caught using certain drugs. Several countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, have agreed to set up bilateral agreements on drug-testing.

Australians likely to dominate again

England, whose team of 21 will be the biggest national contingent, has the 11 gold medals available on the road and track in Auckland, cannot, unfortunately, depend on numerical strength alone for success.

Competition will be fiercest for the nine track titles and the new \$500,000 Manukau cement bowl where Australia - who swept the board in Edinburgh four years ago - could be almost as successful again.

Since then, a men's 50-kilometre points race has been added to the track programme and, at last, almost 32 years after gaining world championship status, women have finally been admitted to the Games and will contest a sprint and individual pursuit.

Neither Gary Niewand nor Martin Vinnicombe, the 1986 gold medal winners in the 1,000 metres sprint and the 1,000 metres time trial respectively, sought a professional career and both will defend their titles, probably successfully.

Vinnicombe, powerfully built, finished second in last year's world kilometre championship, an event for which no British rider was entered because it was decided there were no prospects of a medal.

If one of the four home countries is to take medals in the sprint or the time trial it seems most likely to be Scotland, with Eddie Alexander and Stewart Brydon, or Wales with Stuart Paulding, the British time trial champion.

The 4,000 metres team pursuit, on paper at least, appears likely to end in an Australia-England final, although New Zealand last month produced a surprise result at the Oceania Games by beating Australia in a fast time of 4min 28.26sec.

Chris Boardman, the British individual champion, will be the pace and wasn't prepared for them to go. At the Commonwealth Games I will just go with it and stay there."

Billy's World Student Games silver medal and his victory in the AAA championship last year were testaments to his return to the fringes of world class.

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SKIING



Winning style: Frank Piccard on his way to World Cup downhill success in Schladming

Man-made surface brings out the best in Piccard

From Ray Robinson, Schladming, Austria

On a perfectly prepared piste, covered entirely in man-made snow, Frank Piccard, of France, skied into the record books with the greatest win of his career. It was his first World Cup downhill victory and the first downhill win by a Frenchman since Henri Duvillard in 1970.

Piccard rates this as his greatest skiing achievement, overriding his third place in the downhill at the Calgary Olympics and his Olympic gold medal in the super-giant slalom. "This is my day. I feel I'm up there with the world's great skiers. It's a very special feeling."

Christian Ghedina, of Italy, followed on from his third place in Val Gardena with a second place. Ghedina was unknown until this season and is a surprise inclusion on the winners' rostrum. The young Italian replaced the injured Michael Mair as Italy's No. 1 downhill racer and is confident of further success. With Pantanella and Mair out for the season through injury, Ghedina is Italy's only downhill hope.

The man-made snow conditions created some upset placings in the leading 15. Six racers started outside the top 15 with the most notable being:

RESULTS: Downhill: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 2:01.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 2:01.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 2:01.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 2:01.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 2:01.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 2:02.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 2:02.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 2:02.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 2:02.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 2:02.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 2:02.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 2:02.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 2:02.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 2:02.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 2:02.58.

RESULTS: Super-G: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Giant Slalom: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Slalom: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Bobsleigh: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Luge: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Skeleton: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Biathlon: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Cross-Country: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Nordic Combined: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7. P. Zurbriggen (Swe), 1:42.03; 8. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.21; 9. M. Wenzel (Austria), 1:42.27; 10. H. Tauscher (Austria), 1:42.35; 11. K. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 12. H. Hutter (Austria), 1:42.58; 13. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 14. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58; 15. P. Runggwiler (Austria), 1:42.58.

RESULTS: Winter Paralympics: 1. F. Piccard (Fr), 1:41.21; 2. C. Ghedina (It), 1:41.82; 3. M. Bader (Austria), 1:41.78; 4. R. Rydberg (Swe), 1:41.85; 5. H. Hoenes (Austria), 1:41.88; 6. S. Krauss (Austria), 1:42.02; 7.